

The Oslerian



A Message from the President

By Laurel E. Drevlow

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Preface: In October, 2002, moments before I was to give the key note address at the American College of Physicians meeting in Minnesota, the president came to the podium and announced to the assembly that US Senator Paul Wellstone had been killed in a plane crash. One had to wonder whether a speech on William Osler and medical education was appropriate at that moment. Encouraged to go on, I prefaced my speech by asking the audience to transport themselves to a different time and place, perhaps a place in the past where we could consider this man so important to our profession, our art, and our history.

On May 18, 2017, less than 24 hours after I had submitted my first presidential letter for the Oslerian, a giant in the world of history and medical history, a fellow Oslerian and friend, Michael Bliss, suddenly shuffled off his mortal coil. Again I am wondering about the aptness of the letter below. So again I would ask, before reading the following, that you convey yourselves to a happier, former time when giants still lived among us.

On Mentoring

My middle child is a natural born story teller. Maybe it was the ongoing influence of so many Saturday evenings with Garrison Keillor in our home. More likely it was from hearing the image-rich tales of growing up farming with horses (Sage and Minnie were 2 favorites) that his Grandma Marie used to tell. By the time he was 4 he could fill an entire car ride home from nursery school with a continuous string of stories separated only by, "and then you know what?..." And we never did so on he would go. The world is a remarkably interesting place when you are 4 and just starting to learn how things work and how things grow and how you might fit into this whole mix of earth and sky and water and humanity. As my dear friend, colleague and lifelong mentor, Claus Pierach, reminded me every day that we started work together, it still is.

In the way that such things happen in a family, "And then you know what?..." has become an approved communication method for my children and their parents – an effective way to share lots of disparate pieces of information



**President
Laurel E Drevlow
48^h AOS President
installed at the 2017
meeting in Atlanta, GA**

President's Message *(Continued from page 1)*

in a short time. A person can hold the floor as long as they have breath and another story, and when they don't, someone else can jump in at any wild tangent from the previous tale. As I grow older I have come to celebrate more and more the random that interrupts the persistent OCDness of my professional life. So I have tried to employ "and then you know what?..." wherever I can. Now with the AOS. "And then you know what?..."

Springtime came to Atlanta and the AOS came to Atlanta in the springtime. And what a glorious time it was! The weather offered us southern hospitality at its best and the meeting site and accommodations were Georgia cordial and nestled into soul-nurturing nature. Some Oslerians and attendees had the opportunity to practice their Aequanimitas vigorously at airports and bus stops and bridge detours to get there, but the reward exceeded the exasperations many fold. The only unhappiness in the whole meeting was that some of our members were unable to enjoy it with us due to conflicting events, which makes us look forward even more to a grand reunion in Pittsburgh.

Outstanding presentations tackled everything from deep, dark historical secrets to research about some of our most basic medical tools, through thorny medico-social issues and matters of civic engagement in medicine to provoke us to deep thinking about how we are delivering medical care today. Bean awardees and student contributors raised a high bar for excellence and every attendee was a beneficiary.

On Monday night, in a manner that Rita Charon, Garrison Keillor and my mother would surely approve, President, Joe VanderVeer, reminded us of the importance or the personal narrative in medicine – giving us his address as a powerful, memorable, teachable story - as unforgettable as Joe himself.

Tuesday evening entertained the little grey cells and our right brains with tight 4 part harmony from some enthusiastic young Emory collegians, and then some sometimes sobering, sometimes illuminating, and sometimes perplexedly entertaining tales of the tobacco industry and the quiet heroes who took them on.

All are grateful to the local arrangements committee, to Renee, and to all the fine folks in Georgia. Expectations are high for Pittsburgh and John Erlen has already offered proof that he is meeting the challenge. "And then you know what?..."

Last week I heard from a wonderful former student of mine who had elected to leave a current hospitalist/intensivist position for one in a primary care clinic. The stress of the agonizing decisions that had to be made every day for the patients in the hospi-

tal became a burden too great for this individual. Upon applying for an open position in the clinic across the street my young colleague was told there was probably no reason to submit the application since the clinic was looking for someone of a different sex. The young doctor gently reminded them that all candidates needed to be considered on their merits, not on the basis of sex or gender. An interview was granted but the candidate was told, during the interview itself, that despite strong qualifications, the position would probably be given to a candidate of an alternate sex. At a follow-up appointment, a VP of the medical group defended the clinic's employment strategy. And then lawyers entered the scene and it wasn't long before things got ugly and my tender-hearted former apprentice of the guild was enduring character assaults and suffering mightily for it. I'm pretty sure Sir William would have been appalled.

My entire medical education after medical school came under the umbra of the most professional, ethical, honorable Oslerian physician among us. I should be old enough to know better by now but I still imagine that the rest of the world practices medicine in the same way Claus Pierach does. Sadly, it does not. It should.

Yes, we still need William Osler. Yes, we still need to know that what he taught and exemplified about professionalism is still a sine qua non for medical practitioners today. And yes, we still need to aspire to his ideals. As my wounded young colleague observed, "discrimination is NEVER okay, for any reason, ever." "And then you know what?..."

I am writing/editing this little piece on Mother's Day. Oh, C'mon. We've all done it – worked on a holiday, interrupted a birthday or a family gathering for patient care. It's all part of the profession. My strongest memory of such things was the year my husband took my oldest son along for his first fishing opener on Mother's day. (Yes, they put fishing opener on Mother's Day in Minnesota. Quaint, yes?) I was on call that weekend but my physician mate and I had a system. If we were both on call, the kids would follow one of us around the hospital, coloring and politely conversing with the good nurses of our respective med-surg stations while mommy or daddy saw patients. It had worked before. Only by Saturday evening my 2 small children were febrile and irritable and making every clinical indication that they were coming down with chicken pox. And there is a pretty strong prohibition to taking poxy kids to the hospital even if it is just to sit and color.

They weren't old enough to be left alone in my office and I was in a pickle. "Necessity is the mother

President's Message (Continued from page 2)

of invention," my mother's voice would say. So it is. Thus in a saga that became far more complex than we have time for here (ask me some other time – I'd be happy to fill in the details) on Sunday afternoon our church organist - talented musician, beautiful woman, dear friend, lover of children, who owed me a sizeable favor (and who also had had chicken pox) - babysat with my children while I conducted the most effectively expedited rounds that I could. The meaning of being Dr. Mom, on Mother's Day or any other day.

"And then you know what?..."

Though my mother never truly understood the "call" thing – ("What do you mean you don't go home?") She certainly understood hard work, dedication, humility, kindness and so many other Oslerian traits. Like well-meaning children everywhere we pretended to give her Mother's Day off every year, but I'm sure she wound up in the kitchen at some point and probably threw in a load of laundry or two at the end of the day. And for most other holidays she was in overdrive for days and weeks leading up to them. So it seems appropriate, as I write this, to celebrate my mother, and yours. They were, for nearly every one of us, our first mentors. And mentoring is something we all need. "And then you know what?..."

My mom was also a great teacher – it just came naturally to her. ("Do you know why we plant the gladiolas this way?") But we can be mentors even if it is not our first language. We can be mentors by jumping up at the end of their presentation to congratulate a student. We can be mentors by writing a letter (Yes! An actual letter!... Okay, you can email too...) to tell a colleague that they provided something valuable to a discussion. We can be mentors by practicing the ideals Osler illustrated so well and so convincingly, in our daily work – just as Claus Pierach demonstrated for me and thousands of others. It does NOT go unnoticed.

So ask yourself, how did you get here? To where you are in medicine? In your career? In the AOS? It never just happens. For most of us, we were led, guided, encouraged, supported – mentored. My challenge to our membership is to mentor someone. Encourage someone. Teach someone. Once, twice, monthly, weekly, daily. Make a difference. Show someone why we still learn from Osler. This isn't a new idea (e.g. see: *The Oslerian*, November 2009, Vol. 10, Issue 3), but certainly one worth repeating. There is a reason my young hospitalist friend sought out counsel from a teacher not seen in over a decade. The good doctor had not forgotten what Claus Pierach and I had taught about Oslerian professionalism and conduct and integrity. When life got a little abrasive,

that was the message my friend needed to hear most. So if there are any among us who have not already done so, I ask you to risk a little of yourself in a mentoring relationship. And if you already have, then maybe make one more. Make it small, large, challenging, a cinch. Doesn't matter. But share. Your years of learning and practicing in the Oslerian tradition have endowed you with so much worth sharing. Be brave. Bring someone to an Osler meeting. Think of your own mentors and use them as your guides – for me, there are the Claus Pierachs, Frank Neelons, Joe VanderVeers, Mike Jones, Mom, Ethel... Ethel? Oh, that's another good story. "And then you know what?..."

Postscript: Our world still trembles a little after the loss of one of our society's most devout scholars, ardent members and past presidents. The void left by Michael Bliss' passing can never be filled by words, tears, or memorials. We will surely share all of these, but we can also build something valuable in honor of this man and his work. It will start with professionalism, continue with collegiality and conclude with Aequanimitas.



AOS Business Meeting Minutes

Atlanta, April 12, 2017

President VanderVeer called the meeting to order at 8:05 a.m.

A moment of silence was observed to honor those members who passed away in the past year: Richard Blaisdell, Richard Golden, and John Delaney.

The minutes of the 2016 meeting were approved. Frank Neelon commented that he does not want concurrent sessions at future meetings.

Chris Boes provided the Secretary's Report. He expressed thanks to the Local Arrangements Committee and Renee Ziemer for their work in organizing a great meeting. He noted that the Executive Committee met December and shared that arrangements for the Atlanta meeting were discussed. Reports were given by the chairs of the ad hoc committees, which will be further reported on later, and that Joe VanderVeer and Charley Bryan received an \$8,000 grant for three years from the McGovern Foundation and created *Osler for White Coat Pockets*. A suggestion to start a blog on the AOS website was discussed and could be done for \$55 a month but the Executive Committee voted to save the money and continue to use Facebook and Twitter at this time.

Treasurer's Report: Renee Ziemer reported on behalf of Joan Richardson that the membership is at 200. She shared that the total income for 2016 was \$129,036 and expenses \$95,444. There was a profit of \$6,529 from the annual meeting in Minneapolis. The total liquid assets as of March 24, 2017, were \$703,191. It was noted that expenses were decreased due to emailing the newsletter to the majority of the membership saving printing and postage costs. There are ten members who have not paid their dues. An expression of thanks to those who donated money to offset the cost of the meeting.

Financial Committee Report: Mario Molina reported that at present, 56% of the Society's investments are in stocks, 43% is in bonds, and 1% in cash. The Society made 6% on investments last year.

The *Oslerian* Editor's Report: Mike Malloy thanked those who contributed articles to the newsletter. A broad perspective makes the newsletter interesting and new ideas are appreciated. The newsletter is produced in February, June, August, and November and the deadline for each newsletter is a couple weeks prior to its publication.

Paul Mueller presented the Nominating Committee Report. The Committee recommended the following changes to the membership of the AOS Board of Governors for 2017-2018:
Rotating off the BOG: Pamela Miller (Past President, 2013-2014), Christopher Boes (Secretary), David Cooper, Michael Moran

Staying on: Laurel Drevlow (President), Clyde Partin (First Vice President), Joan Richardson (Treasurer, 2nd term), Joseph VanderVeer (Past President 2016-2017), Paul Mueller (Past President 2015-2016), Herbert Swick (Past President, 2014-2015), James Ballard (2019), Bryant Boutwell (2018), Gordon Frierson (2019), Eric Matteson (2019), Vivian McAlister (2019), John Ward (2018), James Wright (2018), Michael Malloy (*ex officio*)

Recommendations for Board vacancies: Second Vice-President: Mario Molina, Secretary: Douglas Lanska, Treasurer: Joan Richardson (2nd term - 2 years), Members-at-large: Ronald MacKenzie, Barbara Thompson. The nominations were approved by the membership. Paul Mueller thanked Chris Boes for his five years of service as secretary.

Membership Committee Report: Clyde Partin reported that the Membership Committee would like to propose ten new members to the Society. Applications supported by the committee were Michael Flannery, Raghav Govindarajan, Harold Sanchez, Stephen Schabel, Thomas Snyder; student applications E. Samuel Roberto; membership through Bean Award Lee Eschenroeder, Anna O'Kelly and S. Alison Kraemer. The membership voted to approve these individuals for membership.

Program Committee: Laurel Drevlow shared that wonderful abstracts were submitted this year and great presentations have been given at the meeting.

Local Arrangements Committee: Clyde Partin reported that 101 people registered for the meeting with 63 of them being members; 4 becoming members at this meeting, 12 students, 2 residents, and 20 non-members. Donations to offset the cost of the meeting totaled \$21,600.

William B. Bean Student Research Award Committee Report: Chris Boes reported on behalf of Scott Podolsky that Tiffany Brocke from Johns Hopkins, Christopher Magoon from University of Pennsylvania, Joshua Niforatos from Cleveland Clinic and Brit Trogen from New York School of Medicine were selected as recipients of the Bean Award.

Paul Mueller stated that the McGovern Lecturer was Carlos del Rio from the Atlanta community who was an excellent speaker. Joe VanderVeer is chair of the McGovern Lecturer Committee next year and is open to suggestions for a speaker.

It was noted that Richard Kahn was the recipient of the 2017 Life Time Achievement Award. Due to travel issues, Richie was not able to be at the meeting but when called by Bruce Fye to inform him of the award, Richie expressed his gratitude to the society for the honor.

Publications Committee Report: Mike Jones reported that a searchable database is available on the website and that the presentations from this meeting have been uploaded to it. He will be writing articles for the newsletter about the database and how to use it.

President's Report: Joe VanderVeer mentioned it was a good year for the society. We need to work on ways to attract members. He spoke about the *Osler for White Coat Pockets* that he and Charley Bryan wrote. This book will be given out at eleven ceremonies at various medical schools over the next several months to assist with raising awareness of Osler's principles.

Old Business: At last year's meeting, a vote approved changing the requirement of the Emeritus membership age from 70 to 75 and that you must be a member for ten years before applying for Emeritus status. The bylaws were revised to reflect this change and a motion was made and seconded to approve the revisions to the bylaws and was unanimously approved by the membership.

Ad Hoc Committee on Philanthropic Support: Paul Mueller indicated that the society's income matches its expenses so there is a flat budget. The society relies on dues, income from investments and a surplus from annual meetings for its income. To sustain the society the committee would like to propose creating opportunities to contribute to the general fund and designate which initiative(s) the donation would support. In addition endowment funds are being explored where the society would use only a percentage of the income generated by these funds. Estate planning was also suggested where an individual could indicate a percentage of their estate or a specific dollar amount that would go to the society upon their passing. The committee will be seeking 100% support from the Board before moving forward and requesting the membership's participation.

Ad Hoc Committee on Membership: Herbert Swick thanked the others who are serving on this committee with him. The goal of this committee to increase the membership in order to maintain the society into the future. The committee proposed to the Board to relax the membership criteria to attending two meetings or present and attend at a meeting. The membership voted to approve the new membership criteria and the bylaws will be revised to reflect this change.

Ad Hoc Committee on Improve Academic Outreach: Bob Mennel reported that the goal of this committee is to get the message out about Osler's principles and the society to academic medical centers. One suggestion was to endow an Osler lecture at a number of medical schools and offer competitive awards in the medical schools. (This would tie in with Philanthropic Support mentioned above.) The committee encourages members to write and speak about Osler routinely to raise awareness. A video could be created to be shown at medical schools and be available online. The question of how big we want the membership was discussed. If we double the membership, will that impact the camaraderie of the society and might make it necessary to

have concurrent sessions, or extend the meeting. It was noted that some people will not be reimbursed by their institution unless they present, so limiting the number of presentations might hinder attendance at meetings.

A number of suggestions were brought up, including the following:

- Don't charge a registration fee to prospective members;
- Maintain our diverse membership of physicians, historians, librarians, and sociologists;
- Nurture Bean applicants that don't get accepted to submit an abstract for another meeting;
- Mentor other students and encourage them to submit an abstract apart from the Bean award;
- Explore poster presentations in the future if too many abstracts are submitted;
- Print abstracts not accepted for presentation in the program, referencing the author;
- Publish email addresses of presenters in the program booklet to let attendees to contact them and help foster a relationship.

Pam and Rolando Del Maestro have created an essay contest at McGill University that has been extremely successful. The student winner will be presenting at the Wednesday afternoon session.

Bryant Boutwell will be traveling to Hawaii this July to be present at the John A. Burns Medical School White Coat Ceremony. The school also has a newly established Osler Society.

Paul Mueller raised the question of pondering the Society's vision so that we perpetuate Osler's ideals, believing they are worth preserving now and into the future.

New Business: Joe VanderVeer distributed the new members' certificates.

Future meeting dates:
 May 13-16, 2018 – Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
 May 12-15, 2019 – Montreal, Quebec, Canada
 2020 – Pasadena, California

American Osler Society Committee Membership 2017-2018

COMMITTEE	CURRENT CHAIR	CURRENT MEMBERS	NEW CHAIR	ROTATES OFF	NEW MEMBERS
Bean Award	S. Podolsky	J. Erlen, J. Murray, R. Rakel	J. Murray	J. Erlen, R. Rakel	B. Thompson, J. Wright
McGovern Award*	P. Mueller	P. Miller, H. Swick	J. VanderVeer	P. Miller	None
Lifetime Achievement Award	B. Fye	P. Kligfield, S. Moss, C. Pierach	C. Pierach	P. Kligfield	J. Barondess
Nominating*	P. Mueller	P. Miller, H. Swick	J. VanderVeer	P. Miller	None
Finance	M. Molina	B. Cooper, M. Stone	M. Molina	D. Bindschadler	None
Membership#	C. Partin	V. McAlister, E. Matteson, S. Peitzman, J. Richardson	M. Molina	C. Partin	TBD
Publications	M. Jones	C. Lyons, W. Roberts, J. Greene, M. Malloy, H. Travers	M. Jones	C. Lyons	None
Annual Meeting† – Program Committee	L. Drevlow	J. Bailey, C. Partin, S. Peitzman, H. Travers	C. Partin	J. Bailey, S. Peitzman, H. Travers	M. Molina, TBD
Annual Meeting – Local Arrangements Committee	C. Partin, W. Jarrett, B. Silverman	C. Boes (Executive Cmt liaison)	J. Erlen	C. Boes, C. Partin, W. Jarrett, B. Silverman	G. Duker, K. Bettermann, D. Lanska (Executive Cmt liaison)

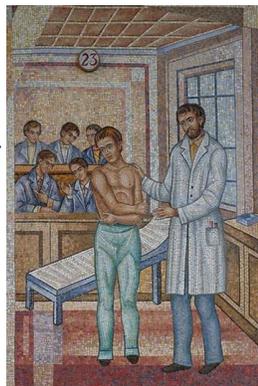
OSLERIANS AND THEIR VIEWS

AOS Atlanta Meeting Review

In the face of the collapse of a portion of I-85, followed by horrendous East coast weather that snarled air traffic for three days, the 47th meeting of the AOS went on. Unfortunately a handful of people missed the meeting due to these air travel issues. One of those people was Richie Kahn, who was unable to accept his Lifetime Achievement Award in person. There was also conflict with the Jewish holiday for which I apologize. We will not let that happen again.

The meeting can be considered a reunion on several layers. Osler travelled to Atlanta in 1896 for the American Medical Association meeting. At this convention he delivered his iconic *Study of the Fevers of the South* paper, forever enshrining the phrase: Humanity has but three great enemies: fever, famine, and war; of these by far the greatest, by far the most terrible, is fever. May of 2017 marks the 121st anniversary of that presentation. The AOS met in Atlanta in April of 1984, thus the 47th meeting marks the 33rd anniversary of that meeting, which lasted just one day, eleven talks were delivered, and Dr. Shigeaki Hinohara gave the lunch presentation at the Piedmont Driving Club: *How Osler Came to Japan*. In contrast, the 2017 meeting lasted two and a half days, not including the preliminary activities on Sunday April 9, anticipated 51 talks, and registered 101 people. Medical students brilliantly delivered a dozen of the talks, many of them tackling edgy and complicated socio-political-medical topics. Auxiliary activities included a multi-hour bus tour led by Daniel Pollock, MD, chronicling the Civil War in the area surrounding Emory. This was a real hit and incredibly popular. A walking tour of the Emory campus led by me revealed that the 2.5 million tile history of medicine mural was by far the most fascinating attraction. Panel 23 depicts William Osler. The bus tour garnered 28 participants and the walking tour 19. The Frank Neelon Literary Gathering saw 18 participants including Frank Neelon. Emory literary scholar Sally Wolff-King was an invited speaker who discussed the poetry of Emory cardiologist-poet John Stone and led us through a dissection of a few difficult poems of Emily Dickinson.

Herbert Swick once again arranged for the annual display of artistic output by AOS members. His exquisite black and white gel prints rival Ansel Adams. Susan Kelen put on display an oil painting of Osler, *The Tuke Portrait*, by Sari Kelen and a black and white photo of WW Francis reading with his

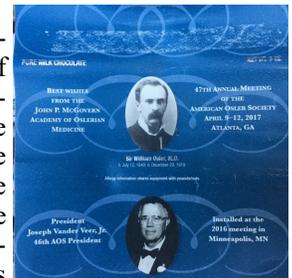


daughter Marian, taken in Montreal. As always, Mike Jones provided invaluable help and expertise with the AV side of things. Renee Ziemer did her usual stellar job – her value to the AOS cannot be overstated. Her institutional memory for AOS meetings and contributions to daily operations is astounding.

Joe VanderVeer’s presidential address was an exquisitely personal recounting of his steady behavior under stress when his family was involved in a car wreck. In the end, all was well, but in the moment this was *Aequanimitas* alive. In the aftermath, Oslerian principles prevailed by all members of the health care team who took care of his family. Over all, this was a lovely and moving presidential address held in the scenic Silverbell Pavilion on the hotel grounds.

A special treat given to attendees was chocolate candy bars with a photo of Osler on one side and Dr. VanderVeer on the reverse. The inside of the wrapper revealed the Osler Coat of Arms. From whence did this come? Once again I turned to Ms. Ziemer for an answer, who replied, “The McGovern Foundation proposed the idea and Rosemary Lindley (program manager at the McGovern Academy) came up with the design, ordered and shipped them.” Barry Silverman envisioned, designed, and executed the Osler Coat-of-Arms in a lapel pin. At \$5, this is a bargain and a treasured addition to Osleriana.

As always, tantalizing historical tidbits arose in the course of the lectures. Robert Beazley informed us that Rebecca Lee was the first black female physician in the USA, graduating in 1864. We were reminded that one of our own, the late Lawrence Longo, played a seminal role in proving that smoking is harmful to the fetus. Joe Lella shared the fascinating Dismal Swamp Story. Osler, long enchanted by Thomas Moore’s poem, *The Lake of the Dismal Swamp*, visited the swamp, in southeast Virginia, with TB Futcher and HB Jacobs. While there, he wrote a story for Revere on the blank pages of a copy of Burton’s *Anatomy of Melancholy*. Though whimsical, the story is more complex than first meets the eye and was brilliantly interpreted by Lella. Michael Moran raised an interesting issue I suspect most of us had never contemplated. What pastor had to confront, in the tenor of the times, the tension of doing Darwin’s eulogy? Learning about the honey metaphor of Montaigne, as relayed by cardiovascular surgeon Charles Roberts, was worth the price of admission. *De Motu Cordis* seems an endless source of inspiration and intellectual scrutiny. This talk exuded erudition in the sweetest and most gentle manner. We ended with a video, perhaps a first in the annals of the AOS meetings a talk was so presented, from Australia, by Nadeem Toodayan. We, of course, have the exquisite video that Rob Stone did a few years back.



In 2015, Dr. Rolando Del Maestro became the first from McGill University to deliver the McGovern Award Lec-

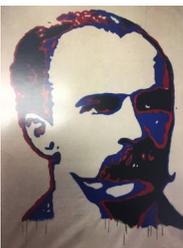
OSLERIANS AND THEIR VIEWS

tureship. Most will recall his most delightful and thoughtful talk on the location of the soul. With great clarity, he traced the evolution of thinking on this topic from the greatest scientists and philosophers over the last millennia. The soul is still missing in action, but he did suggest we should “pay more attention to all that non-coding DNA we have – maybe the soul is hidden in there.” Moreover, this year marked the introduction of the Pam & Rolando Del Maestro William Osler Medical Student Essay Award Lecture, an honor made possible by the generosity of Dr. Del Maestro and his wife. The inaugural recipient, Maria Barrette, a second year McGill medical student, delivered her talk, *Contrarian Contraception: Radical Feminism and The Big Birth Handbook in Late 1960s Montreal*, in poised and confident fashion. A blend of politics, contraceptive healthcare, English-Canadian feminists versus the more radical Quebecois women’s movement, and *The Birth Control Handbook*, this presentation set a high standard for future winners.

One change members may note in the printed program is the addition of some photos and commentary on local points of historical interest. Several people have asked about the cover piece of art. Emory divides its medical students into four houses, Osler being the name of one of them. Emory MD-PhD student Dave Matthews did this painting of Osler, about 3 x 5 feet, and it hangs in a highly visible spot in the medical school near the meeting rooms for the Osler House. The painting is unsigned and it took a while to track down the artist. Permission was obtained from one of the medical school associate deans to use the photo, but we went to press before the artist was identified. He was quite pleased to discover his art gracing the cover.



The traditionally more socially oriented Tuesday banquet was modified this year for an invited lecturer. Eric Solberg, Vice President, Academic & Research Affairs, Associate Faculty, McGovern Center for Humanities & Ethics, University of Texas Health Sciences Center - Houston, spoke on the history of efforts to curb tobacco smoking. And our speaker was so enthralled with his experience, he is joining the AOS. The venue was the Klamon Room in the Rollins School of Public Health, with a panoramic view of downtown Atlanta about four miles away and CDC yards away. Barbecue was chosen to commemorate Osler’s trip to the AMA meeting in 1896, as much fuss and press coverage was made of a lavish barbecue held in Lithia Springs, Georgia for over a thousand doctors attending the AMA meeting. Sweetwater Creek runs thru Lithia Springs and Sweetwater Lodge may have been the spa hosting the barbecue. Thus, the beer of choice for our evening was the craft brew Sweetwater, (whose brewery is right near the stretch of I-85 that collapsed) named for that creek. A special post-prandial treat was the Emory *a capello* group, *No Strings Attached*, who performed after the talk. The three original requests included *Can’t Take My Eyes Off of You* and *Somebody to Love*, but the soloist for those two songs was not able to make it. They were still able to perform *Georgia on My Mind*, but replaced the other 2 songs with *Got to Get You Into*



My Life by the Beatles and *24k Magic* by Bruno Mars. My other request, *What a Wonderful World* by Louis Armstrong, was nixed from the beginning as it was not in their repertoire. Also exceptional was the McGovern lecture by Emory Global Health physician, Carlos Del Rio. He eloquently capture the history of the role of public health, especially in regard to infectious disease outbreaks such as Ebola.

Our own *a capello* group performed on multiple occasions. Tethered by the professional voice of Laurel Drevlow, they did their stunning version of *Georgia on My Mind* and did Emory’s school song admirably. This informal innominate group has become a staple of the AOS meetings and maybe we need a contest to come up with a catchy name for them.



In closing, Osler has a legacy in Atlanta, the crucible being his iconic presentation in 1896 of *The Study of the Fevers of the South*. In 1984, the AOS met in Atlanta. Osler has a burgeoning legacy at Emory University, manifested by the Oslerian House of the Medical School, an original artwork by Dave Matthews depicting Osler, panel 23 on the History of Medicine Mural, and lastly, the great nephew and godson of Osler, Dr. Abbott Osler, an accomplished cardiothoracic surgeon who spent his career at Emory.



By Clyde Partin



OSLERIAN NEWS

AOS Welcomes New Members in Atlanta

Michael Flannery: (Currently retired from the University of Alabama Birmingham). I have long had an interest in Osler's influence upon modern medical ethics. My article, "Healers at the Pool of Bethesda: A Brief History of Christian Faith in Anglo-American Medical Practice," *Fides et Historia: Journal of the Conference on Faith and History* vol. 36, no. 2 (Summer/Fall 2004): 35-50, addresses some of this. But more broadly have taught the history of medicine at UAB from 1999-2015, and prior to that the history of pharmacy at the University of Cincinnati College of Pharmacy from 1994-1999. Most recently I published an article, "Alfred Russel Wallace's Medical Libertarianism: State Medicine, Human Progress, and Evolutionary Purpose," *Journal of the History of Medicine & Allied Sciences*, vol. 70, no. 1 (Jan. 2015): 74-104. From 2007 to 2011, I served as book review editor for the *Journal of the History of Medicine & Allied Sciences*, and I currently serve as book review editor for AIHP's journal, *Pharmacy in History*.



Raghav Govindarajan: (Currently Assistant Professor, Department of Neurology, University of Missouri). As a neurologist and neuromuscular physician, I am a strong believer in the Oslerian tradition of compassionate bedside medicine and teaching. I have read and re-read Osler's principles and teachings and have modeled my clinical practice and teaching (including the alliteration) on it. I am also interested in Osler's embrace of team concept including his advocacy of good nursing. While it seems the team concept is a new model, Osler had long noted that good nursing is one of the keys for patient healing. As the associate medical director of outpatient neurology clinic (medical director starting in 2017), I have built a patient centered, highly engaged nursing team. My other historical interests are in functional neurological disorders, and the evolution of their understanding and approach to their care which forms the basis of my abstract submitted to the society's annu-



al meeting. My Oslerian tradition of teaching and care has earned me numerous accolades both from my patients and students including more than 15 teaching awards, many patient recognition awards. In addition I have been promoted to leadership positions including the neurology clerkship director where I have made many curriculum changes and brought back the Oslerian tradition of teaching into the forefront.

Harold Sanchez: Harry Sanchez, MD FCAP is associate chief of pathology and medical director of microbiology at the Hospital of Central Connecticut, assistant clinical professor in laboratory medicine at the Yale School of Medicine, and associate clinical professor of pathology at the Frank Netter School of Medicine. He is the vice president of the Beaumont Medical Club, a medical historical society in New Haven, CT.



Stephen I. Schabel: Dr. Schabel is a 1968 graduate of Washington University in St. Louis Missouri and The University of Chicago Pritzker School of Medicine in 1972 where he was elected into Alpha Omega Alpha. He completed training in Diagnostic Radiology at the University of Rochester and was certified by the American Board of Radiology in 1976 and was recertified in 2015. He joined the faculty of the Medical University of South Carolina in 1976 and is currently Distinguished University Professor of Radiology. He is a long time member of the Waring Historical Society in Charleston and served as its president in 2007. He is a member of the Halsted Society.



Thomas Snyder: (Currently retired). When I retired from the Navy Reserve in 1997 and from practice and administration with the Kaiser-Permanente Health Care Program of Northern California in 2003, I decided to combine my naval and medical interests to research and write the history of the Navy's first west coast hospital at Mare Island in the San Francisco Bay. This venture entailed quarterly visits to the National Archives in DC and Maryland, and along the way, led to my founding of the Society for the History of Navy Medicine in 2006. I remained the Executive Director of that enterprise until my 70th birthday in 2013, after see-



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ing Society membership grow to more than 175 practitioners and academics from around the world, mounting academic panels at several historical meetings, and establishing a Foundation that funds graduate student research grants, travel grants and, recently, a biennial book prize in the history of maritime medicine.

I first “met” William Osler when I was researching the World War I Army Base Unit No 33, which was staffed by faculty of my medical alma mater, Albany Medical College. Colonel William Osler, then a Regius Professor of Medicine at Oxford, came by to raise the flag and “commission” the establishment in July 1918. As it turns out, several of the Albany physicians and surgeons had become friends with Osler during his visit to Albany in February 1899.

E. Samuel Roberto: (Currently Resident Physician in Internal Medicine at Wright State University Boonshoft School of Medicine). My very passionate interest in Sir William Osler’s life, his principles and practice, strongly aligns with my personal and professional ideals. As I learn from Osler’s life, I study and absorb his integration of timeless ideals, high moral caliber, of Wisdom and Virtue in medical practice. I am starting a life-long journey (at my 28 years young, just beginning medical practice) in studying Osler, and in this process will branch out to other similar historical interests as well. At this point my other historical interests regard medicine, philosophy, and ethics— Abraham Flexner, Thomas Percival, for example. I am also interested in cardiovascular history, figures such as William Withering’s Meditations on the Foxglove, and Paul Dudley White. In studying Osler, I seek to perpetuate, preserve, and protect the timeless Wisdom and Virtues which mark the true ‘Physician’. I aim to carry these forward from his example— into my own personal and professional life— and into those medical learners I will teach.



POETRY CORNER



*Contributions from the
AOS Literary Gathering in Atlanta
April 9, 2017*

The Salutation of the Dawn

Listen to the Exhortation of the Dawn!
Look to this Day!
For it is Life, the very Life of Life.
In its brief Courses lie all the
Varieties and Realities of your Existence:
The Bliss of Growth,
The Glory of Action,
The Splendour of Beauty;
For Yesterday is but a Dream,
And Tomorrow is only a Vision,
But Today well lived makes
Every Yesterday a Dream of Happiness,
And every Tomorrow a Vision of Hope.
Look well, therefore, to this Day!
Such is the Salutation of the Dawn.
(A favorite of Osler’s from the Sanskrit)

Oslerian Haiku

Aequanimitas
Medicine is what he taught
Students on the Ward.
By Bruce Hoekstra

One hundred years past
Wars still come for our children
None Revered Osler.
By Anonymous Fool



OPINION

Visions of AOS 20:20 ?

Reflections on discussions held during the Atlanta meeting prompt thinking about who and what the American Osler Society will be in the future. Paul Mueller posed a question during the Business Meeting as to what did we as a group envision the AOS to be currently and in the future. Herb Swick headed a task force that examined Future Strategic Goals and Directions of AOS of which an Executive Summary was presented in the June 2016 edition of the *Oslerian*. Two of the strategic goals included the following: (1) Make the AOS a strong and widely recognized voice for information and resources to advance the humanistic practice of medicine in service to humanity. (2) Communicate and transmit the importance of Oslerian values in contemporary medical practice, through schools to make medical students and residents more aware of William Osler as a relevant role-model during training and throughout their own careers.

So, how are we as an organization doing on accomplishing these two goals and what do pursuing these goals say about the vision that we have for ourselves for the future? Are we seeing ourselves with a vision of 2020 both figuratively and literally? As a source of information we certainly have made progress with the activation of the Osleriana Digital Database project through the valiant efforts of Mike Jones. Perhaps our challenge there is to better advertise its availability to a broader audience than our immediate members. Those with ties to other history of medicine organizations or academic affiliations could be instrumental in providing notices or announcing the availability of the database. Other projects involving the dissemination of information include Charles Bryan's *Encyclopedia Osleriana*. He has issued a call for volunteers to contribute and has thus given all of us an opportunity to be a part of this important and interesting project. Thus, it would appear that the "organization" is making good progress in achieving one of its stated goals.

What about the second goal mentioned above of communicating and transmitting the importance of Oslerian values to medical students and residents to make Osler relevant as a role-model during their training and throughout their own careers? Joe VanderVeer and Charles Bryan's compilation of the *Vade Mecum* has certainly provided an opportunity for all of us to help disseminate this inspiring collection of essays that promote Oslerian values to medical students and residents. So far Joe VanderVeer relates that this pocket book is to be distributed at various ceremonies in 11 medical schools. Another step forward in advancing this goal is the expansion of the Bean Awards offered. This year

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.

there were 4 awardees scheduled to present in Atlanta. In addition it was reported there were 26 applications submitted for this coming year's awards. Four of these will be selected for funding and presentation at the coming year's meeting. In addition to the Bean Award presentations at the Atlanta meeting there were 10 more presentations by medical students or residents. It would appear that progress is being made toward the accomplishment of this strategic goal.

In conjunction with the above stated strategic goals, Herbert Swick chaired an Ad Hoc Committee on Membership that reported to the Board of Governors. This group reported ideas that could be seen as facilitating the stated strategic goals. Among the ideas were (1) developing and making available materials that could be easily shared; (2) encouraging attendance at AOS meetings by medical and graduate students, residents, fellows, especially those in schools near the host institution and exploring ways to reduce their costs of attendance.

So, what does progress toward these strategic goals imply about the stated or unstated vision of AOS for the future? It would appear that as an organization we are truly committed to the dissemination of material that promotes Oslerian values and ideals. Also, as an organization, it appears that we are dedicated to attempting to influence the next generation of physicians and scholars in raising their consciousness to the inherent humanistic values perpetuated by Osler and influencing their careers to become life-long learners and perpetuators of these values. Although the likelihood of capturing these people as members of AOS as they move into their early careers may be limited, our influence on their perspective of medicine may stay with them and a select number will choose to join AOS later in their careers. These people are our future and we need to cultivate and inspire them. Thus, I interpret this data as suggesting that the AOS has a pretty good vision of what we want to do by the year 2020 and that we are seeing it with a 20:20 perspective. As an acknowledgement to the memory of Michael Bliss, I think these are visions and goals to which he would fully subscribe and would allow his spirit to continue to move through our midst.

By Michael Malloy

LETTERS -OBITUARIES-NOTICES

Meet the Bean Award Presenters from the Atlanta AOS Meeting

Lee Eschenroeder: (Presentation: *Virchow and the Sewers of Berlin: The Debate Between Social and Biomedical Models of Medicine in 19th Century Berlin, with Implications for Today*). Lee is a 4th year medical student at the University of Virginia School of Medicine. Originally from Lynchburg, VA. He received his BA from UVa in 2011, majoring in Bioethics. After graduation, he moved to Colorado and spent 2 years in the classroom at STRIVE Prep as a member of Teach for America. Influenced by his studies, teaching, and personal experiences, including a cross-country bicycle tour, he returned to Virginia for medical school, with interests in underserved populations and the health of communities. He has held leadership positions in UVa programs and student groups related to medical education, humanistic medical practice, and community dialogue. He has been inducted into the AOA medical honor society and Gold Humanism Honor Society, and is the 2017 recipient of the Leonard Tow Humanism in Medicine Award at UVa. He will pursue a residency in internal medicine and hopes to incorporate education and publish health into his future clinical practice. He can be reached at leschenroeder@gmail.com

S. Alison Kraemer: (Presentation: *In Vitro Insubordination: Harvard Stem Cell Science and Government Control During the Bush-Obama Era*). Alison graduated from Harvard University in 2012, majoring in Human Developmental and Regenerative Biology with a minor in History of Science. She is now a 3rd year medical student at Johns Hopkins School of Medicine producing this project under the Scholarly Concentration program with the Johns Hopkins Institute of the History of Medicine. She currently plans to pursue a career in Family Medicine with a goal of mobilizing community resources to serve both the medical and psychosocial needs of vulnerable patients. She can be reached at skraeme3@jhmi.edu

Anna O'Kelly: (Presentation: *Practicing What He Preached: The Role of Humility in Sir William Osler's Thought and Practice of Medicine*). Anna is a 3rd year medical student at the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine. Prior to beginning medical school she pursued an undergraduate degree at McGill University

and a Master's degree at Oxford University. She can be reached at aokelly1@jhmi.edu.

History of Medicine Blog

From Gordon Frierson

The blog has been going for just over two years (since February 2015). It began as a retirement project directed mainly at members of our local, San Francisco-based, history of medicine group, the Bay Area History of Medicine Society. Over time the mailing list has expanded. It consists of short vignettes on topics of medical history, and tends to have a biographical slant. I try to cover diverse fields, including some I am less familiar with. Ideas come from various sources, including colleagues, reading, and even other blogs. The internet now makes research almost a breeze and the blog would be impossible without it. The goal is to inform and entertain at the same time.

The link is: <http://medihist2.blogspot.com>

Osleriana Digital Database Resurrected

Mike Jones reported at the Atlanta meeting that the Osleriana Digital Database was up and working with the release of the latest version of the previewer function from eFileCabinet. You can access and search all the material he uploaded over the last year without a hitch (keeping fingers crossed). It has been a long slog working through the problems with the company, but we appear to have brought it to fruition at last. Check it out at: <http://americanosler.org/search/search.php>



Portrait Osler, Hasciter Libr.

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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

Looking Back at Atlanta



Looking back at Atlanta brings memories of dogwoods in blossom, gentle breezes and cool temperatures with blue skies; excellent conference facilities and dinners; stimulating presentations by members and guests; the enthusiasm and energy brought by student presentations; and the comradery inherent in our meeting as a Society.

Looking Ahead to Pittsburg



Looking ahead to the 2018 Annual Meeting in Pittsburgh scheduled for May 13-16, we will have another opportunity to explore a vibrant city and engage in a stimulating meeting in a city associated with the likes of Andrew Carnegie, Andy Warhol, Arnold Palmer, and Gene Kelly. John Erlen, Kirsten Bettermann, Doug Lanska, and Georgia Duker will be our local meeting organizers and will be putting together an outstanding venue and schedule of events.

Call for Abstracts for 2018 Annual Meeting in Pittsburg, PA. May 13-16, 2018

Abstracts should be sent by e-mail to: aosrenee@gmail.com and must be **received** by 15 November 2017. 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