



The Oslerian

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT Too Darned Hot

Inside this issue:	Pg
President's Message	2
(Continued)	3
Oslerian Book Reviews	3
Board of Governor's Meeting Minutes	4
Book Review (Berk)	5
AOS Annual Business Meeting Minutes	6
Kudos Dr. Caplan	7
Second CALL for ABSTRACTS 2012	8



Michael Bliss, 42nd President of the AOS, installed at the 2011 meeting of the Society at Penn's Landing, Philadelphia

Greetings Oslerians, wherever you are. No doubt you've found ways to keep cool through this scorcher of a summer. It's been a season when most of North America has been, as Cole Porter wrote of Baltimore in *Kiss Me Kate*, "Too Darned Hot."

The greybeards among us remember growing up before there was universal air conditioning to take the edge off summer heat. Most North American cities were practically unlivable during summer heat waves. Baltimore was one of the worst. Practically everyone with seniority cleared out of Johns Hopkins from May till October, leaving the institution in the (capable) hands of its house staff. For the Oslers of the medical world, summers were a time of medical meetings (the favored Eastern venue was Atlantic City), trips abroad, at least a few weeks of rest and relaxation in cool seaside breezes.

Osler often took summer holidays at fashionable resort towns. In various years we find him on the north shore of the lower St. Lawrence at Tadoussac and Murray Bay; at Bar Harbor, Maine; at Swanage, Bude, the Isle of Wight, and Land's End in England; and in the last summer of his life spending an idyllic two months on Jersey, one of the Channel Islands. The sea reminded him of his Cornish roots, I think, and he genuinely enjoyed swimming and div-

ing and frolicking on the shore. Yes, Dr. Osler would see private patients wherever he went – to this day the Wrong family of Canada remembers his kindnesses to them at Murray Bay a hundred years ago - but mostly he filled his summer days with picnics, walks, reading, writing, sightseeing, fishing, and the occasional round of golf. When Osler was on a holiday, he really did relax.

As a resident at Johns Hopkins, young Harvey Cushing had to work through the sweltering days and nights of high summer. Too hot to wear many clothes around home he noted salaciously to his bride. Very quickly, though, Kate Cushing and the children began leaving Baltimore in the late spring for Cleveland (which had beautiful Lake Erie resort areas) and other cooler spots. Eventually the Cushings settled on the New Hampshire coast at Little Boars Head as their summer getaway. Their favorite two cottages there are still extant, all their winter homes having disappeared. Fittingly, the main cottage has a plaque to the great American surgeon.

But Harvey Cushing in fact never spent many nights at Little Boars Head. He became such a driven workaholic that he preferred staying in Baltimore, then Boston, to get on with his practice, his research, and his writing, unencumbered by family and ap-

Continued on pg 2 →

(President Bliss' MESSAGE, Continued)

parently unfazed by the heat. Cushing worked summer, winter, spring, and fall, and particularly liked working on holidays when there was no competition for operating room time. When he did take time off it was typically to play competitive sports with a ferocity that an NFL coach would admire. Even in retirement at Yale he was an obsessive croquet player.

Osler always had time to play with children, especially children at the beach. Cushing had a separate cottage at Little Boars Head where, on the few days when he visited he could rest and work away from the clamor of family. His grandchildren remembered being told to be very quiet in their grandfather's house as he was working very hard behind the closed doors of his study. To them he was only a shadowy figure who was not to be disturbed.

We thought about Osler this June as we made our annual thousand-mile trek from Toronto to our summer home in Prince Edward Island, the tiny Canadian province in the Gulf of St. Lawrence that you reach from Nova Scotia or New Brunswick. We took a route down the St. Lawrence that led us through La Malbaie, Quebec, which incorporates the old Murray Bay environs where Osler hobnobbed one summer with one of the two U.S. presidents who qualifies as a summer Canadian, William Howard Taft. (The other was Franklin D. Roosevelt, whose cottage on Campobello Island, New Brunswick, is beautifully preserved as an international park.)

En route we also saw the grandiose Roman Catholic religious complex at Sainte-Anne-de-Beaupré outside of Quebec City, which in Osler's day had been a world-famous shrine, a North American Lourdes, noted for miraculous cures. The pillars of the basilica are still festooned with canes and crutches left behind by the faithful. Their gratitude is also evident in the material splendor of the church buildings and their décor. Osler sometimes talked of Johns Hopkins as a temple of healing, comparing its mission and "miracles" with the great Catholic shrines in France and Quebec. When Liz Bliss noted the contrast between the cathedral of healing we were visiting, and the town's poor tenements only a block away, I suggested that it's really not so different in Baltimore.

As in Lake Wobegon, it's been a quiet summer here on Prince Edward Island. I don't have a book project on the go, retired from the University of Toronto five years ago, and find that being president of the AOS isn't exactly a full-time job. We go to concerts and ceilidhs, are regulars at summer theatre, watch the crops grow, and introduce the grandchildren to Anne of Green Gables. Osler-like, we still occasionally frolic on the beach, weather-permitting. In fact it hasn't permitted all that much beach-going so far this year, as at times in we've come close to envying those of you back in the hot cities.

Just as some of us are having carefree holidays, others of our membership are, by choice or necessity, working long hours through the summer. I used to try to have it both ways out here, bringing out boxes of books and notes, and researching and writing all summer long. Most of the best parts of both my Osler and Cushing biographies were written in our birch grove in the centre of Prince Edward Island. Out here I could be really productive, putting in very long days.

Liz would notice how very long and frequent these days were and warn me that I was turning into Harvey Cushing. Many of us in medicine and academia flirt with the addiction to work that can generate constant high achievement, but also burnout and family disorder. Given a choice, we should aim for Osler's remarkable capacity for time management, both in organizing the day's work and in accommodating to the rhythm of the seasons. Balance is everything. Osler had it, Cushing not quite. When it's so darned hot in the dog-days of summer, only the more Cushingesque amongst us are not thinking about cool breezes and barbecues.

A few more weeks and our world will be back at full speed. Don't forget to submit abstracts for the papers some of you have spent the summer planning to write this fall, and others have already written.

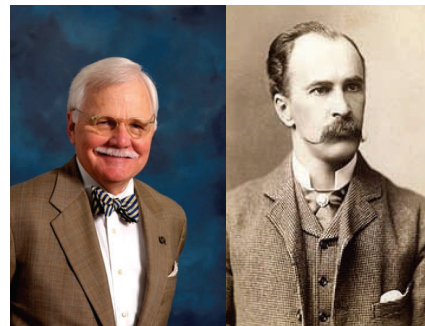
— Michael Bliss m.bliss@sympatico.ca

OSLERIANS IN THE NEWS — OSLERIAN BOOK REVIEWS! Oslerian Charlie Bryan has reviewed two books by other Oslerians. On page 5 of this issue he reviews *Anatomy of a Kidnapping: A Doctor's Story*, about fellow Oslerian Steven L. Berk. In a second review (in press in the *Journal of the History of Medicine and Allied Sciences*) Charlie reviewed a collection of 70 essays by the late Oslerian **Robert U. Massey** (1922–2008) that were originally published as editorials when Massey was editor of *Connecticut Medicine*. Like Charley, he was not only an AOS member but also a practicing internist-turned-academician. Finally, *Oslerian* editor Joe Vander Veer published a review of George Sheldon's biography, *Hugh Williamson: Physician, Patriot, and Founding Father* in the July 6, 2011, issue of *JAMA*. If you like American history, you'll enjoy Sheldon's book.

MINUTES: American Osler Society Board of Governors Meeting May 1, 2011 Hyatt Regency Hotel Philadelphia, PA

President Bryan called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Present were: R. Dennis Bastron, Michael Bliss, Charles Bryan, Anand Date, Laurel Drevlow, Conrad Fulkerson, Richard Golden, Mike Jones, Joseph Lella, Philip Leon, Sandra Moss, Paul Mueller, Francis Neelon, Barry Silverman, Allen Weisse, James Young, Joseph VanderVeer, and Renee Ziemer. Absent were Paul Berman and John Noble.



A moment of silence was observed to honor those members who died in the past year: David G. James, Robert Kimbrough and Harris Riley, Jr.

There were no additional items added to the agenda.

The minutes of the 2010 meeting of the AOS Board of Governors were approved.

The secretary's report was given by Paul Mueller:

- a. We currently have 173 members; 2 inactive, 36 emeritus, 2 associate, 127 active and 6 honorary.
- b. In December 2010, the AOS officers held a teleconference that proved to be very beneficial and will be continued in 2011. The officers discussed the large volume of abstracts received and how to proceed. It was agreed upon to try concurrent sessions from 2 to 5 p.m. on Monday and Tuesday of the meeting, which would accommodate 16 more presentations. In addition, logistical questions pertaining to the annual meeting were discussed.
- c. The AOS website continues to be updated routinely. Links have been made to individuals who have professional pages. AOS is on Facebook to help connect members.
- d. An administrator's report was provided by Renee Ziemer. After reviewing all membership listings in past programs, there were ten individuals that had been omitted over time from the membership listing and not recorded in the minutes as requesting to be removed from membership. Letters were written to each of them asking if they wished to continue membership or if they wanted to be removed. A review of the by-laws under Section 3, Conditions of Membership, b. "Active members failing to pay dues shall after a lapse of two years and appropriate warning be dropped from membership automatically." The following individuals will officially be removed from membership: C. Wayne Callaway, Donald Catino, Ernest W. Crow, Thomas A. Horrocks, Mary E. Kingsbury, Richard H. Lampert, Robert L. Martensen, Donald S. Pady, Philip M. Teigen, and Faith Wallis. A listing of individuals who are not members but have attended past meetings has been created and will be marketed to for potential membership. Currently there are 95 on this list. Twelve individuals on this list qualified for membership and were sent letters and ten applied for membership in 2011.
- e. Postcards were sent out in October reminding individuals about the abstract deadline and the dates of the Philadelphia meeting. These were sent to all members and the non-members and registration materials were also sent to this group.

Oslerian Report: Joe VanderVeer, editor for the *Oslerian*, reported things are going well. He encouraged members to submit articles, and particularly awards and achievements for the Oslerians in the News column in each issue.

Treasure's Report: Denny Bastron provided handouts with information on dividends and equity, income and expenses for 2010, the William B. Bean Education Endowment Fund and Publication Fund. The society is healthy financially. Notably, 38 members have not paid their 2011 dues even after a second notice was sent. Charles Bryan will review the list and emails will be sent to these individuals reminding them of their dues obligation.

Financial Committee Report: Charles Bryan provided the report on behalf of Marvin Stone. Copies of the

AOS BOARD of GOVERNORS MINUTES, (continued from Pg 3)

report were provided for review. The Y99 account continually increased in value from January to May 2010. It dipped slightly in May with a -1.79%. It rebounded in July with 4.21% increase but dropped again in November (-0.48%). The year concluded in December with an increase of 3.63%. The income earned in the Y99 Fidelity account from January 1, 2010, through December 31, 2010, was \$12,496.94.

The Nominating Committee recommended that the following changes to the membership of the AOS Board of Governors for 2011-2012: rotating off members-at-large Conrad Fulkerson, Philip Leon, James Young and past-president Francis Neelon; members staying on Michael Bliss (President), Sandra Moss (First Vice President), Paul Mueller (Secretary), Dennis Bastron (Treasurer), Paul Berman (12), Anand Date (13), Laurel Drevlow (12), Mike Jones (13), Barry Silverman (12), Allen Weisse (13), Charles Bryan (Past President 10-11), John Noble (Past President 09-10), Joe Lella (Past President 08-09), Joe VanderVeer (ex-officio), Richard Golden (ex-officio). New second Vice President Pamela Miller, members-at-large Christopher Boes, J. Mario Molina, Cynthia Pitcock all rotating off in 2014)

Membership Committee Report: Sandra Moss provided a summary of the ten candidates who submitted application for membership. The Board approved unanimously James Bailey, Ian Cameron, Carla Keirns, Carl Lundstrom, Eric Matteson, Kenneth Swan for full membership and Christopher Dibble, Meghan Feely, Laura McLafferty, and Margaret Wardlaw (the last three being members with "student" status).

Annual Meeting Committee Report:

Program Committee: Michael Bliss reported that 72 abstracts were received and 62 were accepted. In order to accommodate the increased number of abstracts (approximately 50 being the usual number), concurrent sessions were utilized.

Local Arrangements Committee (LAC): Joe VanderVeer reported that 131 had registered for the meeting and everything is set for a great meeting. Paul Mueller emphasized the crucial importance of the LAC for success of the annual meetings.

William B. Bean Student Research Award Committee Report: Laurel Drevlow shared that 16 submissions were received and three awards (\$1500 and registration and travel expenses to attend the annual meeting registration) were approved. The committee is reviewing the application information on the website and will make changes as appropriate.

Michael Bliss reported that the **McGovern Lecturer** for 2012 AOS meeting will be David Naylor from Toronto. Jeremiah Barondess will be the recipient of the **2012 Life Time Achievement Award**.

Historian-Archivist's Report: Richard Golden reported that there is six feet of AOS archival materials at McGill University. Last year's presentations were added to the archives. Richard requested that the presentations be audio recorded at future meetings and preserved in the archives. The Board discussed the need to provide permission slips to be signed by presenters in advance so audio recording can occur. Ms. Ziemer will add a permission slip to the materials sent to each presenter. The Local Arrangements Committee will need to work with the AV staff to have the sessions recorded.

Publications Committee Report: In the absence of Clyde Partin, there was no report.

AOS-AAHM Liaison Committee Report: Charles Bryan shared that he and Sandra Moss met with individuals from the AAHM and that it would be preferable to have the 2014 meeting held in Chicago in conjunction with AAHM. The Board is not aware of any member living in the Chicago area that could function as chair of the Local Arrangements Committee and it was strongly encouraged that a member needs to be physically near or living in the city where the meeting will be held.

President's report: Charles Bryan expressed his joy as serving as president. He shared that he worked on creating a new AOS tie, bow tie, pocket square and scarf. He distributed the new merchandise to attendees to purchase. He will present the new merchandise before the break Monday morning and have them for sale for the duration of the meeting.

B of G MINUTES are continued on pg 5 →

AOS BOARD of GOVERNORS MINUTES (continued from Pg 4) New Business:

The past presidents' dinner went well with 24 individuals in attendance. It was discussed whether AOS or the attendees would pay for the dinner and it was determined that the attendees shall pay. Renee Ziemer will send out a bill to those who attended. In the future, the dinner will be included on the registration form and paid for prior to the meeting.

The Board approved inviting widows and widowers of an AOS member to the banquet compliments of the society.

Registration fees for the annual meeting were discussed to determine if non-members should pay more to attend the meeting than members. It would be another perk for being a member and may influence non-members to consider joining. The group did not come to a consensus and Michael Bliss and Paul Mueller will explore options.

Joint AAHM-AOS member rewards program was briefly discussed as offering a discount on an event or complimentary meal if a member attended both AAHM and AOS meetings. This topic was tabled for further discussion.

This year the program included concurrent sessions on Monday and Tuesday from 2 to 5 p.m. The Board members expressed a variety of opinions for and against this experiment. The Board will review the evaluations to see how attendees felt about concurrent session and discuss further via email so that plans can be made for the 2012 meeting if another room needs to be reserved.

Paul Mueller reported that the membership rosters for the various AOS committees for 2011-2012 are being finalized and will be published in the June *Oslerian*.

Future meeting dates:

2012: Chapel Hill, NC (approved by AOS officers January 2010)

2013: Tucson, AZ (approved by AOS officers April 2010)

2014: To be determined

The meeting was adjourned at 9:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul S. Mueller
AOS Secretary

AN OSLERIAN REVIEWS AN OSLERIAN (A Review by Charles S. Bryan)

Steven L. Berk is an active member of the AOS, having joined in 1988. On the morning of Sunday, March 6, 2005, a paranoid fugitive broke into Berk's study, pointed a shotgun at his head, and said: "I will kill you if you don't do what I say." Berk spent the next four hours riding around Amarillo, Texas (where he was then the regional dean of the Texas Tech medical school system) and its environs. Alas for the intruder, Berk proved a poor choice of victim. He had little cash on his person and he did not know how to use an ATM machine. He did not know his PIN number, but was fully capable of memorizing the ten numbers of the VIN number on the left lower windshield of his kidnapper's SUV. Berk attributes his survival in part to his internalization of Osler's concept of *aequanimitas*. And his empathy with the fugitive didn't hurt, either. It's a lively read: Berk SL. *Anatomy of a Kidnapping: A Doctor's Story*. Lubbock, Texas: Texas Tech University Press, 2011. 248 p. \$27.95.

AN OPPORTUNITY FOR OSLERIANS TO PUBLISH

Dr. Bill Roberts (journal editor and Osler Society member) encourages Baylor and non-Baylor members to submit manuscripts to the journal, ***Baylor University Medical Center Proceedings***. They are also offering our members a free subscription to *Proceedings*. The journal is indexed in PubMed, with full text freely available both on PubMed Central and the website (www.BaylorHealth.edu/Proceedings). Interested members please send their submissions to cynthiao@baylorhealth.edu.

(Submitted by Cindy Orticio, Managing Editor, *Baylor University Medical Center Proceedings*.)

Minutes AOS Annual Business Meeting, Philadelphia, PA, May 4, 2011

President Bryan called the meeting to order at 7:30 a.m.

A moment of silence was observed to honor those members who died in the past year: David G. James, Robert Kimbrough and Harris Riley, Jr.

There were no additional items added to the agenda.

The minutes of the 2010 meeting of the AOS Annual Business meeting as printed in the August 2010 *Oslerian* were approved.

The secretary's report was given by Paul Mueller:

- A. Thank you to the Local Arrangements Committee and Renee Ziemer for all their work in planning this year's meeting.
- B. AOS currently has 173 members; 2 inactive, 36 emeritus, 2 associate, 127 active and 6 honorary. There were ten applications for membership received this year and approved at the Board meeting. Everyone was encouraged to solicit colleagues to join the society.
- C. Mark Kaske has been working on the AOS website and now credit cards may be used to purchase items, pay dues, and make donations to designated funds via the website. It is an archival resource for newsletters, past programs, and obituaries. Social media is being used by many and AOS is on Facebook. It was noted that contact information is not available on the website but can be obtained by contacting Renee Ziemer. The paper directory created several years ago will be updated and printed on a yearly basis and distributed.

Joe VanderVeer, editor for the *Oslerian*, continues to welcome submissions for the newsletter in particular for "Oslerians in the News."

Treasure's Report: Denny Bastron shared a PowerPoint presentation reviewing information on dividends and equity, income and expenses for 2010, the William B. Bean Education Endowment Fund and Publication Fund. Investments are doing well and the financial state of the society is up from previous years. Charles Bryan indicated that on past dues statements there was an option to make a donation to the Friends of 13 Norham Gardens but when it became affiliated with Green Templeton College, it was decided by the AOS not to support it any longer. John Ward was called upon to give an update, and he indicated that they are expanding the international center and visitors may stay on site and use the archives. He asked how AOS would like to see the center used and asked members to contact him with their thoughts.

Marvin Stone provided a financial update. The Y99 account continually increased in value from January to May 2010. It dipped slightly in May with a -1.79%. It rebounded in July with 4.21% increase but dropped again in November (-0.48%). The year concluded in December with an increase of 3.63%. The income earned in the Y99 Fidelity account from January 1, 2010, through December 31, 2010, was \$12,496.94.

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Sandra Moss, chair of the Membership Committee, reported that ten candidates who submitted application for membership will be inducted to membership later in the meeting.

Michael Bliss, chair of the Program Committee, reported that 72 abstracts were received and if concurrent sessions were not implemented, a third of the abstracts would have been rejected. The concurrent sessions

(Continued on next page →)

ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES (Continued from Pg 6)

were an experiment this year and Michael encouraged everyone to complete their evaluation form and provide feedback regarding the concurrent sessions. The number of abstracts received for next year's meeting may fall off and this may not be an issue for future meetings.

Laurel Drevlow, on behalf of the William B. Bean Student Research Award Committee, shared that 16 submissions were received and three awards were made. The committee is reviewing the website criteria to make it more clear on how to apply for the award.

Michael Bliss reported that the McGovern Lecturer for 2012 AOS meeting will be David Naylor from Toronto.

It was noted that Jeremiah Barondess will be the recipient of the 2012 Life Time Achievement Award.

Historian-Archivist's Report: Richard Golden reported that there is six feet of AOS archival materials at McGill University. Last year's presentations were added to the archives. Richard requested that the presentations be audio recorded at future meetings and preserved in the archives.

Publications Committee Report was presented by Clyde Partin. Persisting Osler IV is being worked on.

Charles Bryan shared that widows and widowers will be invited to attend the banquet complimentary of the society. He informed the members that students will now be eligible for full membership but will not pay dues until after their training is completed.

Paul Mueller stated the committee membership is being finalized and will be published in the June *Oslerian*.

New members to the society were presented their certificates. New members are as follows: James Bailey, Ian Cameron, Christopher Dibble, Meghan Feely, Carla Keirns, Carl Lundstrom, Eric Matteson, Laura McLafferty, Kenneth Swan, and Margaret Wardlaw.

Michael Bliss presented Charles Bryan with a presidential plaque and thanked him for his service to the society. In addition, he thanked the College of Physicians of Philadelphia for hosting the reception.

Next year's meeting will be held April 22-25 at the Carolina Inn, Chapel Hill, North Carolina, and the 2013 meeting will be held in Tucson, Arizona.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul S. Mueller, Secretary

KUDOS TO OSLERIAN Richard Caplan, M.D., an AOS member since 1988.

Dr. Caplan introduced curricular programs in medical humanities and biomedical ethics at the Roy J. and Lucille A. Carver College of Medicine at the University of Iowa and guided their continuing medical education program. He was honored in June in Iowa City, IA, with the **2011 Distinguished Alumni Award for Service**. He joined the UI medicine faculty in 1961, and developed a reputation not only as the consummate physician-teacher-researcher-leader in the Department of Dermatology, but became a mainstay in the College's administrative offices.

(At a time when few schools of medicine were teaching such courses, Caplan developed programs in medical humanities and biomedical ethics, which were later combined into one program.) In recognition of his contributions, the Richard M. Caplan Chair in Biomedical Ethics and Medical Humanities was endowed in 1997. Regarding his work, Richard Caplan said, "Medical school candidates with broader backgrounds in course work and life experiences are more likely to become broadly interested, socially involved, compassionate physicians."

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Æquanimitas

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 the 2012 Annual Meeting in Chapel Hill, April 22-25, 2012

Abstracts should be sent by e-mail to: aosrenee@gmail.com with a copy to mueller.pauls@mayo.edu and must be **received** by 15 November 2011. 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. (Timekeepers are dedicated and strict!)

Abstracts will be accepted by e-mail up until 15 November 2011. Send abstract with objectives and cover letter to: aosrenee@gmail.com with a copy to: mueller.pauls@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