Call for Abstracts for 2011 Annual Meeting in Philadelphia, PA, May 1-4, 2011

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 2010. 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 merit 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 2010. Send 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 a column, including awards and publications for yourself or other Oslerians. - JBV
It's my observation that those who call us “hagiographers” have not attended our meetings. Listen carefully at each attempt to deconstruct the image of Osler as a near-perfect paper saint.

The late Chuck Roland, one of our founders, wrote a seminal paper entitled “Osler’s Rough Edge.” 1 Well into his sixth decade, Osler exhibited behavior that most of us would consider outrageous (he calmed down considerably and by large “acted his age” after moving to Oxford). Following Roland’s lead, I analyzed some years ago what we mean by “the Oslerian tradition.” I considered it unfortu- nate that subsequent generations often carried the young William Osler’s ambition to “cultivate the whole field of medicine” a bit too far. I considered it (and still consider it) unfortunate in some respects that Osler chose to write singlehandedly a comprehensive textbook of medicine. In doing so, he built on the models of great nineteenth-century physiologists such as Thomas Watson and A. J. F. Gent, which he chose to ignore (at least for the moment) a precedent for multi-authored, multi-volume treatises including not only “systems” of medicine emanating from Europe but also the five-volume system “by American authors” edited by Wil- liam Pepper. 2

The Oslerian tradition might be best understood as a virtuous approach to medicine and a life to be modeled by Osler. Each generation must reinterpret for its own use the lessons, values, virtues, and shortcomings of iconic figures handed down from the past.

Field good about our Society not only for the older members tasked with interpreting how they’ve spent their time and talents but also for the younger members who help us define the term and of medicine’s interface with the humanities. It’s their turn to take the torch. I feel good that we have so many ap- plications for the William B. Bean Scholarship Award last year, and that so many young persons submitted and pre- sented papers at this year’s meeting.

We’ve talked about how we can keep up with medical students who express interest in medical history (and the other medical humanities) only to submerge under the pressures and constraints of residency training. The

President’s Message (Continued from Pg 1)

“Palpation,” defined by the Oxford English Dictionary as “touching, handling, gentle handling; specifically medical examination by feeling,” comes from the Latin pal- pate, “to touch gently.” When I googled “gentle touch,” I found Web sites on such things as puppy training, dog grooming, and working with the blind. I have no idea what the therapeutic, dentistry, chiropractic, acupuncture, and use of they- re, but in a large sense, “palpation” means “to feel.” How do we feel about the American Osler Society?

Gentle reader. I of course feel very good about it, and I trust you do, too. Larry Longo, a few years back, asked the question: “What is the American Osler Society?” Is it a cult? A clique? A club? A tribe? Here’s his an- swer: “Family.” I couldn’t agree more.

Paul Mueller doesn’t realize it yet, but he has one of the very best jobs in the world — and I’m not talking about his heading up the Division of General Internal Medicine at the Mayo Clinic. He’s secretary of the Ameri- can Osler Society. Serving in that capacity for nine years was certainly one of the major highlights of my adult life.

Looking over our membership directory, I realize that I’ve broken bread with at least 45 members of the AOS in their homes towns, visited at least 25 in their offices, vis- ited at least 21 in their homes, and stayed at least over- night (and in two instances, for a week) with nine in their homes. That’s a number I’m not likely to surpass. To quote myself, this is a “breakfast” category. I can’t think of any organization that comes close to being so personally engaged as ours. It is a testament to the members tasked with interpreting how they’ve spent their careers fit in with grand scheme of things? Did we make the pressures and constraints of residency training. The

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President’s Message (Continued from Pg 3 – )
Minutes of the AOS Annual Business Meeting 28 April 2010

1. Secretary Paul Mueller called the meeting to order at 7:30 a.m.
2. A moment of silence was observed to honor those members who died in the past year: Howard Burchell, William Gibson, Arthur Gryfe, Charles Roland and Leon Saunders.
3. The Minutes of the 2009 Annual Business Meeting—previously dis tributed and published in the Oslerian—were approved.
4. The Secretary’s report was given by Paul Mueller: (a) We currently have 176 members. (b) Nine applications for AOS mem bership have been submitted this year. (c) Changes to the AOS bylaws were proposed (see below), most of which reflected dissolving the prior position of Secretary-Treasurer and creating 5 new and separate po sitions of Secretary, Treasurer, and Newsletter Editor. (d) It was recommended that at least one additional meeting of the AOS Board of Governors be held by teleconference call between annual meetings. (e) The revision of the AOS Web site will soon be completed. The AOS is now also on Facebook. (f) Renee Ziemer will assume the position of AOS Administrator effective May 15 (replacing Betsy Timm).
5. Oslerian Editor Joe VanderVeer reported that the newsletter will continue the same format and plans to work closely with the newsletter from the McGill Osler Library. Contributions from the members for the “Oslerians in the News” column are encouraged, and photos and brief sketches of the new AOS members are planned for future issues.
6. Secretary Paul Mueller gave a brief Treasurer’s report in Treasurer Bastron’s absence. Last year’s meeting expenses were $48,958.31, of which about $40,000 was covered by registration fees. Because of a change in AOS Treasurers during mid-2009, a full report will be prepared for the 2011 meeting. In response to 3 questions from the floor: (a) The Oslerian will be issued both in print and electronically. (b) Periodic mailings will continue, including reprints and correspondence from the Secretary. (c) The AOS Administrator is a paid employee of the Society.
7. Marvin Stone gave the Finance Committee report: (a) The bulk of our assets (about $440,000) have been invested in Fidelity Mutual funds with an approximate allo-cation of 34% stock funds and 44% fixed income funds. (b) Although during the 2007-2008 value of our assets in stock funds dropped about 25%, during 2009 we experienced an increase in value of $58,000 of the overall portfolio. (c) At the request of the Board of Governors, the Finance Committee will make a recommendation for a more conservative allocation of our investment funds as a means of protecting our assets from a possible down-turn in the near future.
8. The following new applicants were approved and inducted into membership: George Bause, Kerstin Betterman, Christopher Boes, William Evans, Thomas Frank, Vivian McAlister, Scott Poddolsky, Thorne Winter, and James Wright.
9. Joe Lella, representing the Nominating Committee, recommended the following changes to the membership of the AOS Board of Governors for 2010-2011: (a) Rotating off members-at-large—Robert Men nell, Sandra Moss, and Brian Mennel; (b) New Members-at-Large—Charles Ryan (President), Michael Bliss (First Vice President), Paul Mueller (Secretary), and Dennis Bastron (Treasurer); (c) Past-presidents—Frank Neelon, Joe Lella, and John Noble; Members-at-Large—year rotating off—Paul Berman [12], Conrad Fulkerson [11], Philip Leon [11], Barry Silverman [12], James Young [11], and Joe VanderVeer (ex officio). (c) New Second Vice President: Sandra Moss; New Members-at-Large [all rotating off in 2013]: Allan Weisse, Mike Jones, and Anand Date; (d) All of the aforementioned recommended appointments were approved.
10. The Program Committee report was given by Charles Bryan: 57 abstracts had been reviewed and 51 were accepted for presentation at the 2010 AOS meeting.
11. The Bean Student Research Award Committee Report was given by Laurel Drevlow: 10 submissions had been received and 3 awards ($1,500 and expenses to present work at an AOS meeting per each award) were awarded (awards winners to be announced at a later date).
12. Joe Lella reported that the McGovern Lecturer for the 2011 AOS meeting will be Rosemary Stevens.
13. Robert Kinbrumth announced that Michael Bliss will receive the 2011 AOS Lifetime Achievement Award (Charles Bryan is the 2010 recipient).
14. Richard Golden has agreed to fill the position of Historian-Archivist, to succeed the late Dr. Chuck Roland.
15. Clyde Partin gave the Publications Committee report: (a) The Beginnings of Modern Medicine by Richard Golden has been published by the McGill Library Series. (b) The 25th anniversary of the AskSam database was announced. (c) Maude Abbott’s biography is ready to be uploaded to the site. (d) Charles Bryan and Jeremiah Barondess will begin work on a forth volume in The Persisting Osler series.
16. John Noble gave the President’s report; he expressed thanks for the privilege of serving the AOS and deferred his remarks to the upcoming banquet.
17. There was no old business.
18. New Business. (a) Secretary Paul Mueller presented the proposed changes to the AOS bylaws. They were unanimously approved. The revised bylaws will be posted on the AOS Web site. (b) Committee Appointments for 2010-2011 are published on page 5 of this issue of the Oslerian. (c) At the Past President’s Meeting a discussion was held (but no conclusions reached) regarding print vs electronic publishing for the Society. (d) Dates and locations of future meetings are: (i) 2011 in Philadelphia at the Hyatt at Penn’s Landing, May 1-4 with a rate of $160 which will hold for two days before and after. (The AAIMH meets just before at the Sheraton Hotel, a short walk away.) (PHL contacts are Joe VanderVeer, Steve Petzink, Robert Mennel and Sandra Moss; (ii) 2012 in Durham, Contacts are Frank Neelon, Conrad Fulkerson and Mike Jones; (iii) 2013 in Tucson, Contact Dennis Bastron.

The O slerian

References


OSLERIAN PROGRESS NOTES:

Consider this from a Founding Member of the AOS:

“In December 2009 a moving van took my Osler collection of sixty years and some 400 items to the new medical library at Temple University, Philadelphia. These books, letters of Osler and his friends and colleagues, and related photographs, etc., will be held in the Special Collections Section of the newly built and opened medical school library at Temple. I suggest that all members of the AOS consider doing the same toward the latter part of their lives, that is, to leave their Osler collections to the libraries of their respective medical schools with the added suggestion that these special collections be added to throughout the ensuing years. This act would add another measure to the perpetual memorializing of Osler to subsequent students of the medical sciences.

"John McGovern and I had often discussed this idea, and he too has already accomplished it."

— AJ Henderson. M.D. (5208 Danbury Road, Bethesda, MD 20814)
Minutes of the AOS Board of Governors Meeting 26 April 2010

1. President Noble called the meeting to order at 7:15 p.m. With the exception of Treasurer Dennis Bastron, all current officers and members of the Board of Governors of the American Osler Society (AOS) were present.

2. A moment of silence was observed to honor those members who died in the past year: Howard Burchell, William Gibson, Arthur Geyre, Charles Roland and Leonard Saunders.

3. No additional agenda items were added.

4. The minutes of the 2009 meeting of the AOS Board of Governors (previously distributed and published in the Oslerian) were approved.

5. The Secretary’s report was given by Paul Mueller: A. We currently have 176 members. B. Nine applications for AOS membership have been submitted this year. Changes to the AOS bylaws were proposed (see below), most of which reflected dissolving the prior position of Secretary-Treasurer and creating 3 new and separate positions of Secretary, Treasurer, and Newsletter Editor. D. It was recommended that at least one additional meeting of the AOS Board of Governors be held by teleconference call between annual meetings. E. The revision of the AOS Web site will soon be completed. The AOS is now also on Facebook. F. Renee Ziemer will assume the position of AOS Administrator effective May 15, 2010 (replacing Betty Timm).

6. Secretary Paul Mueller gave a brief Treasurer’s report in Treasurer Barondess’ absence. At the same time, Marvin Stone gave the Finance Committee report: A. The 2009 meeting expenses were $84,958.31. B. The bulk of our assets have been invested in Fidelity mutual funds with an approximate allocation of 54% stock funds and 44% fixed income funds. C. Although during the 2007-2008 the value of our assets in stock funds dropped about 25%, during 2009 we experienced an increase in value of $58,000 of the overall portfolio. D. A motion was approved to have the Finance Committee make a recommendation within 6 weeks of this meeting to the Board of Governors for a more conservative allocation of our investment funds as a means of protecting them from a possible downturn in the near future.

7. The Nominating Committee reported that the following changes to the membership of the AOS Board of Governors for 2010-2011 (these changes conform with the revised AOS bylaws [see below]): A. Rotating off: members at-large Robert Mennel and Steve Peitzman; B. Staying on: officers Charles Bryan (President), Michael Bliss (First Vice President), Paul Mueller (Secretary, and John Noble (Treasurer); Past Presidents Frank Neelon, John Noble, and Howard Burchell (year rotating off) Paul Berman [12], Laurel Drevlow [12], Conrad Fulkerson [11], Philip Leon [11], Barry Silverman [12], James Young [11], and Joe VanderVeer (ex officio) C. New Second Vice President: Sandra Moss; D. New members at-large (all rotating off 2013): Allen Weisse, Mike Jones, and Ananda Date. Nine applicants for membership were proposed and unanimously approved: George Bause, Kerstin Bettermann, Christopher Boes, William Evans, Thomas Frank, Vivian McAlister, Scott Podolsky, Thorne Winter, and James Wright.

8. The Program Committee report was given by Charles Bryan; 57 abstracts had been reviewed and 51 were accepted for presentation at the 2010 AOS meeting.

9. The Bean Student Research Award Committee Report was given by Laurel Drevlow: 10 submissions had been received and 3 awards ($1500 and expenses to present work at an AOS meeting per each award) were approved (awards winners to be announced at a later date).

10. Joe Lella reported that the McGovern Lecturer for the 2011 AOS meeting will be Rosemary Stevens.

11. It was announced that Michael Bliss will receive the 2011 AOS Lifetime Achievement Award (Charles Bryan is the 2010 recipient). There was no Archivist-Historian report. Richard Golden has agreed to fill the position of AOS Archivist-Historian, succeeding the late Chuck Roland.

12. The Publications Committee report was given by Clyde Partin: A. The Oslerian will be accessible on-line on the AOS Web site. B. The AOS will continue joint publishing ventures with the Osler Library at McGill University. C. Charles Bryan and Jeremiah Barondess will pursue the possibility of publishing a fourth volume of the Persistent Osler (in alignment with the 10-year cycle for each volume, the fourth volume will include selected AOS annual meeting papers from 2001-2010). D. Frank Neelon gave an update reading the AskSam database.

13. On behalf of the AOS, the AAHM will continue to be discussed between the respective chairs (Charles Bryan (AOS) and John Eyler (AAHM)).

14. John Noble will give the President’s report during his presidential address at the AOS annual meeting banquet April 28, 2010.

15. There was no old business.

16. New business included: A. The AOS bylaws changes proposed by Secretary Paul Mueller were approved. B. That the past-presidential AOS meeting site and dates were approved.

17. The 2011 meeting will be held in Philadelphia, PA May 1-4 after the AAHM meeting (contact persons: Joe VanderVeer, Steve Peitzman, Robert Mennel, and Sandra Moss). The 2012 meeting will be held in Durham, NC (contact persons: Frank Neelon, Conrad Fullkerson, and Mike Jones). The 2013 meeting will be held in Tucson, AZ (contact person: Dennis Bastron). The dates of the 2012 and 2013 meetings are to be determined. C. New committee chairpersons and members are as follows:

   - Bean Award: Laurel Drevlow (chair), Clifton Cleveland, Scott Podolsky, and Robert Kimbrough
   - McGovern Award: John Noble (chair), Joe Lella, and Frank Neelon
   - Lifetime Achievement: Clyde Partin (chair), Richard Kahn, and Michael Bliss
   - Nominating: John Noble (chair), Joe Lella, and Frank Neelon
   - Finance: Marvin Stone (chair), Dee Canale, Barry Cooper, and Daniel Morgan
   - Membership: Charles Bryan (chair) and the Board of Governors

Publications: Clyde Partin (chair), Frank Neelon, Joe Lella, Mike Jones, Joe VanderVeer, Pamela Miller, and Paul Mueller

Annual Meeting Program: Michael Bliss (chair), Philip Leon, Pamela Miller, Sandra Moss, and Paul Mueller

19. The meeting was adjourned by John Noble at 9:30 p.m.

Looking Ahead to AOS 2011 in Philadelphia

Academy of Natural Sciences
American African Museum
American Philosophical Society
American Swedish Historical Museum
Antiques Row Shops
Arch Street Quaker Meeting
Atwater Kent Museum
The Athenaeum of Philadelphia
Christ Church
C. W. & Underground Railway Museum
Eastern State Penitentiary (§ see below)
Edgar Allen Poe Nat’l Historic Site
Franklin Square
Franklin Institute
Independence Seaport Museum
Independence Visitor Center:
    - Liberty Bell
§ Charles Dickens visited here; see quote below.

§ Quote for the Issue: Charles Dickens (1812-1870) visited the Eastern Penitentiary in PHL & wrote about their use of solitary confinement there. (Eastern Penitentiary became a model for the Penal Colony at Port Arthur, Tasmania). It was not uncommon that inmates of both institutions went crazy.

“I hold this slow and daily tampering with the mysteries of the brain, to be immeasurably worse than any torture of the body: and because its ghastly signs and tokens are not so palpable to the eye and sense of touch as scars upon the flesh; because its wounds are not upon the surface, and it extorts few any torture of the body: and because its ghastly signs and tokens are not so palpable to the eye and sense of touch as scars upon the flesh; because its wounds are not upon the surface, and it extorts few any torture of the body: and because its ghastly signs and tokens are not so palpable to the eye and sense of touch as scars upon the flesh; because its wounds are not upon the surface, and it extorts few any torture of the body: and because its ghastly signs and tokens are not so palpable to the eye and sense of touch as scars upon the flesh; because its wounds are not upon the surface, and it extorts few”

– American Notes for General Circulation (1842)