



The Oslerian

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A “BEACHSIDE” LIBRARY

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Greetings, Fellow Oslerians!

President Herbert Swick, 44th President of the AOS, installed at the 2014 meeting at Oxford

On many occasions and in many venues, William Osler stressed the importance of reading. He encouraged physicians to "try to get the education, if not of a scholar, at least of a gentleman."

Summer is traditionally a time for lighter reading -- something to help you relax while lying on the beach, perhaps, or after a day of hiking a trail or playing with grandchildren. William Osler's recommendations for a Bedside Library may not be entirely suitable for this purpose: Montaigne, Epictetus or Sir Thomas Browne don't come immediately to my mind, at least, when I am looking for relaxing reading! With apologies to Osler, then, let me propose a "Beachside Library." Many contemporary short stories and poems are enjoyable and relatively light, but still consonant with Osler's observation in *A Way of Life* that "the secret of inspiration in any literature is the capacity to touch the chord that vibrates in a sympathy that knows nor time nor place."

Literature can be a potent tool for gaining insight into healing. For some years, I have conducted a seminar on the narrative structure of medicine for first year medical students as they embark on learning how to take a history and examine a

patient. We read and discuss works by physicians who have combined an active practice of medicine with an active career as a writer, and who have explicitly recognized the influence each career has on the other. As Anton Chekhov famously noted, "Medicine is my lawful wife, and literature is my mistress. When I get fed up with one, I spend the night with the other. Though it is irregular, it is less boring this way, and besides, neither of them loses anything through my infidelity." And William Carlos Williams felt "that one occupation complements the other, that they are two parts of a whole...that one rests the man when the other fatigues him."

In that spirit of resting, let me offer a few ideas for a "Beachside Library." While a number of contemporary physician writers have penned probing, intricate and complex works, I have selected a few (mostly) lighter poems and short stories. All have proved to be of great interest not only to medical students but also hospital staff and the general community. They provoke reflection and insight into the nature of the clinical encounter between patient and physician. They exemplify in some manner the values and principles of William Osler. But they can also be enjoyed during quieter times on a long summer day.

(Please continue in next column→)

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President's Message (continued)

[Photos below courtesy of Wikipedia]



← **William Carlos Williams (1883 - 1963)** published a number of short stories and poems that were stimulated directly by his medical practice among the poor in Depression-era Rutherford, New Jersey. Between patients, he would sometimes jot a word or phrase, perhaps a glimpse of insight, in his notebook. He struggled at times with the conflicting demands of professional and family life. At night, he wove those encounters and struggles into a poem or short story. Representative among them are *Ancient Gentility*, *The Use of Force*, *This is Just to Say*, and *Le Médecin Malgre Lui*.

Dannie Abse (1923 -) is less well-known in America than in his native Great Britain. A Welsh radiologist, poet, playwright and novelist, Abse has received a number of literary awards for his work, much of which stems directly or indirectly from his training and experience as a physician. *Carnal Knowledge* recounts his learning human anatomy during the Blitz in London. *The Smile Was* celebrates the special smile of a new mother while confronting the reader with the sometimes ominous implications of other types of smiles. More appropriate for relaxing, though, are shorter poems like *Song for Pythagoras*, *Case History*, *The Stethoscope*, or *Pathology of Colours*. Even with its slight tinge of bitterness, those of us "of a certain age" may appreciate Abse's short quatrain *Valediction*:

**Dannie Abse**

In this exile people call old age
I live between nostalgia and rage.
This is the land of fools and fear.
Thanks be. I'm lucky to be here.

Like other physician writers, John Stone's memoirs and poems often echo his work as a clinician. Examples from his large body of poetry include *Talking to the Family*, *Gaudeamus Igitur: A Valediction* (delivered as the 1982 commencement address for the Emory School of Medicine), and *Getting to Sleep in New Jersey*. Another short poem by Stone can be found at the end of my message. It was written for the annual Service of Gratitude and Reflection at Emory at the completion of the students' anatomy course.



← **John Stone (1936 - 2008)** was a cardiologist in the Department of Medicine at Emory School of Medicine. He loved teaching medical students and served for many years on the admissions committee.

Several lines from his poem *Back to Oxford* will resonate for many of us:

You have flown all night
in order to walk the High this afternoon,
to have these drivers

aim at you good-naturedly
from the wrong side of the street.
But the biggest menace on the High

is the killer bicycle
that Oxford mounts each morning



← **Richard Selzer (1928 -)** was a Professor of Surgery at Yale for many years. Now retired, he, like William Carlos Williams, devoted his daylight hours to patient care and wrote at night or in the early morning hours, often sitting at his kitchen table. His many stories explore vividly and in lyrical writing the travails and the privileges of medical practice, as well as the many dimensions of healing. *Toe-nails*, *Imelda*, and *Witness* address medical encounters directly, while *The Imposter* and *Imagine a Woman* beautifully don the cloak of fable.

President's Message (concluded)

My selections for this small "Beachside Library" are clearly both limited and idiosyncratic. Many Oslerians will have their own favorites, and I have many other personal favorites among the work of these and other authors. In this modern era, it is easy to access the works of any of these authors through internet web pages or blogspots, on Amazon and other on-line booksellers, or with an electronic reader or a smart phone. For me, though, nothing can quite replace the tactile joy of actually holding a book and leafing through its pages to discover hidden gems. Whatever your preferred form of access, may you enjoy the remaining days of summer with a good book.

"Elegy and Affirmation"
John Stone

Together we are grateful, for we know
the privilege it is to touch another,
whether in the name of science or love.

The touching here has been made up of both.

By their extraordinary gifts
these dead have taught the living how to touch.

Through them we touch the body of the world.

— Herbert Swick hmlswick@msn.com



IN MEMORIAM: Robert P. Hudson (1926 – 2014) by Chris Crenner

Bob was a graduate of KU School of Medicine in 1952 and dedicated his career to the University of Kansas Medical Center and especially to the Department of History and Philosophy of Medicine. Following early years as a faculty member in internal medicine, he left KUMC to earn his master's degree from the Institute of the History of Medicine at Johns Hopkins and became Chair of the Department of History of Medicine (as it was then known) at KUMC in

1966. Bob led the department for 28 years, retiring at the end of 1994. His regular Saturday morning lectures on the history of medicine became a touchstone in the memory of generations of KU medical students – and a ready topic of conversation with seemingly any Kansas physician you would meet above a certain age.

Bob had a career of unrivaled service to the history of medicine, as president of both the American Association for the History of Medicine and the American Osler Society, and as a member of the editorial boards of a host of major journals in the field. Bob's books and articles, most notably, *Disease and Its Control: The Shaping of Modern Thought*, published in 1983, continue to influence the field, figuring most recently in new work on the teaching of medical history in the medical curriculum. Bob numbered among his many honors at the University of Kansas the Chancellor's Club Teaching Professorship, the Delp Medal for Excellence in Education, and the Distinguished Teaching Award of the University. He was named as Medical Alumnus of the Year in 1982 and nationally became a Fulton Fellow at Yale University in 1983.

I join you in commemorating the loss of a valuable colleague and friend.

Minutes
American Osler Society Annual Business Meeting
Macdonald Randolph Hotel
Oxford, England
May 14, 2014

President Pamela Miller called the meeting to order at 8:07 a.m.

President Miller provided a welcome and acknowledged Dr. Hinohara's presence at the meeting.

A moment of silence was observed to honor those members who died in the past year: Ilza Veith, Edmund Pellegrino, William Feindel, Marian Kelen, Robert Turk, and Kenneth Swan.

There were no additional items added to the agenda.

The minutes of the 2013 AOS annual business meeting that were previously published in the *Oslerian* were motioned for approval by Herbert Swick and seconded by Bruce Fye, and approved unanimously by the membership.

Chris Boes provided the **Secretary's Report** thanking the Local Arrangements Committee and Renee Ziemer for their work in preparation for the meeting. Currently there are 189 members of the Society; 131 active; 51 emeritus; 5 honorary; and 2 charter. Membership is steady but not increasing and he encouraged members to invite colleagues to attend the meetings and submit abstracts. He reported that Paul McHugh and Steve Achuff are working on next year's meeting in Baltimore.

From the November **Executive Committee meeting**, Chris reported that the Oxford meeting details were discussed. The Society will continue to send out reprints with the newsletters and that those submitting reprints should send 190 copies to Renee Ziemer. If you wish to have an electronic version of an article sent out via email, the author is responsible for getting permission from the journal. The McGovern Lectureship booklet from 2013 was delayed but will be sent out with the June newsletter. He also reported that approval was granted for Renee Ziemer to purchase a laptop, which will be very helpful during the annual meetings. The Executive Committee also approved starting a Twitter account. Chris reported that there are 60 plus followers and he posts quotes from Osler as well as Osler-related news items.

Joseph VanderVeer reported that the *Oslerian* continues to be published quarterly and that he is looking for someone to take over the role of editor. He currently uses Microsoft Publisher to create the newsletter and anyone interested should contact him for more details. Joe announced that Richard Golden and Jock Murray were the winners of the quizzes in the newsletter.

→ **Please continue Annual Business Meeting Minutes on Page 5** →

WHAT THEY ARE WORKING ON NOW – SOME CURRENT PROJECTS OF FELLOW OSLERIANS

Paul Berman (Amherst, MA) docpb@comcast.net Having retired in 2007, presently Paul volunteers at a medical clinic at the Amherst Survival center. He continues working on medical history and presented a paper at the recent AAHM meeting in Chicago. He also serves as a member of their Council. Paul will be teaching a course ("Medicine in Massachusetts 1750-1850") for Five College Learning in Retirement in MA.

Michael Moran (Charleston, SC) mmoran2@juno.com Michael is recently moved to Aiken, SC from AZ. He is Curator of the William P. Didusch Center for Urologic History and annually helps organize the history forum at the annual American Urological Association (AUA) Meeting. For this year's (AUA) meeting in Orlando, he invited Michael Bliss, who gave a well received talk, "Doctors, Books, and Pathography: A Personal Reflection on the Writing of Medical History in Our Time."

Michael's recently released book, *Urolithiasis: A Comprehensive History* (Springer: New York 2014), is a 471 page work that gives details about urinary stone disease throughout history.

Jim Wright (Calgary, Alberta, Canada) jim.wright@cls.ab.ca is finishing his second term as Head of the Department of Pathology & Laboratory Medicine at the University of Calgary, including all Calgary area hospitals. Having "navigated difficult political waters and built a very strong academic and clinical Department in Calgary," he looks forward to a year of administrative leave next July.

Jim is working on papers about: (1) Mayo Clinic pathologist Malcolm B Dockerty's contributions to gynecologic surgical pathology; (2) Why cytopathology progressed so much slower than histopathology as a diagnostic tool; (3) The radicalization of breast cancer surgery: Joseph Colt Bloodgood's role in William Stewart Halsted's legacy; (4) With three co-authors, Jim is also doing oral interviews for a book about the history of the University of Calgary Faculty of Medicine.

ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING (Continued)

Treasurer's Report: Renee Ziemer provided the treasurer's report on behalf of Dennis Bastron. The total income for 2013 was \$143,906 and expenses \$82,164. The McGovern Fund will be fixed at a value of \$130,000. The Bean and Publication funds will no longer appear as separate committed funds. This had been done to maximize our uncommitted funds for tax purposes.

Financial Committee Report: Mario Molina reported that the Y99 balance as of April 1, 2014, was \$565,000 and had a 10.4% increase in value during 2013. The account is invested in 50% stocks and 50% bonds. His recommendation was to keep the accounts as is since they are doing well.

Sandra Moss on the behalf of the **Nominating Committee** recommended the following changes to the membership of the AOS Board of Governors for 2014-2015: Rotating off R. Dennis Bastron (Treasurer), Charles Bryan (Past President), J. Mario Molina, Cynthia Pitcock. Staying on: Herbert Swick (President), Paul Mueller (First Vice President), Christopher Boes (Secretary), Pamela Miller (Past President 2013-2014) Sandra Moss (Past President, 2012-2013), Michael Bliss (Past President, 2011-2012), Darryl Bindschadler (2016), Jonathon Erlen (2015), Robert Nesbit (2016), Scott Podolsky (2015), Charles Roberts (2015), Allen Weisse (2016), Richard Golden (*ex officio*) Recommendations for Board vacancies: Second Vice President, Joseph VanderVeer; Treasurer, C. Joan Richardson; Members at Large: David Cooper, Laurel Drevlow, and Michael Moran.

Membership Committee Report: Paul Mueller reported that the Membership Committee would like to propose five new members to the society. Applications supported by the committee and approved by the Board were Ernest Hook, Douglas Lanska, Ronald MacKenzie, Michael Malloy, and Alexandra Istl (Bean Awardee).

A question from the membership was what the Society was doing to increase membership. Renee Ziemer reported that the Society sends out a letter encouraging individuals who presented at a meeting to join. Individuals who have expressed interest in the Society but are not members are on a "marketing" list and receive information regarding the annual meeting. The website also contains information on what is required to become a member.

Herbert Swick, chair of the **Program Committee**, reported that there were a record number of abstracts with a total of 78 abstracts received and 41 were accepted. He also thanked the Osler Club of London for presenting a session and those who reviewed the abstracts for their time. These efforts contributed in making the scientific sessions a success.

Local Arrangements Committee: John Ward thanked the other members of the Committee for their hard work in organizing this meeting. He thanked Richard Osborn for taking care of registrations and the payments for the Osler Club of London participants; the Ashmolean Museum staff for a terrific evening on Monday; Terence Ryan for his assistance with the Green-Templeton College dinner and 13 Norham Gardens; the Bodleian Libraries and Christ Church. Extraordinary efforts were made by many to make for such a wonderful meeting.

Scott Podolsky, on behalf of the **William B. Bean Student Research Award Committee**, shared that 13 submissions were received and the Committee selected Angela Catellanos from Harvard and Matthew Edward from the University of Texas Galveston as this year's winners. They will be invited to present in Baltimore next year along with two other awardees that were selected in 2013 but deferred to present until the 2015 meeting due to the expense of traveling to Oxford. He thanked Sandra Moss and John Erlen for their review of the applications.

Clyde Partin shared that the **Lifetime Achievement Award** recipient for 2014 is **Jock Murray** and the award was presented to Jock at the banquet. He noted that this award will be presented at the banquet each year and further discussion will occur amongst the Committee to determine if the recipient should be notified in advance so family can be in attendance.

Historian-Archivist's Report: Richard Golden reported that the Osler Library has indexed and summarized Osler letters, and Cushing's notes and excerpts of 6,000 letters. The descriptive summaries are available on the Osler Library website.

Pamela Miller thanked Mike Jones for organizing the presentations and running the AV equipment. This effort saves the Society significantly since AV expenses are costly. **Publications Committee Report:** Mike Jones shared that the Ask Osleriana site on the server was down for several months due to a lighting storm in Florida where the server resides and there is no backup server. It is now available for use. He mentioned Richard Golden recently had a book published. He reported that the presentations from each meeting are being archived and can be used for research. The last several meetings have been recorded, and the discs will be sent to the archives and Renee Ziemer.

Pamela Miller gave the **President's Report** and thanked Renee Ziemer for the work she does for the Society and all the members who willingly participated on the Board and various committees. Pam thanked Bryant Boutwell and Barry Silverman for sharing their books with the group.

Old Business: None

New Business: The membership approved Ernest Hook, Douglas Lanska, Ronald MacKenzie, Michael Malloy, and Alexandra Istl (Bean Awardee) for membership.

The membership approved the Board and Committee appointments of Joseph VanderVeer, Jr. for Second-Vice President; C. Joan Richardson for Treasurer; and David Cooper, Laurel Drevlow, and Michael Moran as Members-at-Large.

Please continue with committee assignment grid on page 6 →

COMMITTEE	CURRENT CHAIR	CURRENT MEMBERS	NEW CHAIR	ROTATES OFF	NEW MEMBERS
Bean Award	S. Podolsky	J. Erlen, C. Pitcock, K. Swan	S. Podolsky	C. Pitcock, K. Swan	J. Duffin, J. Murray
McGovern Award*	S. Moss	M. Bliss, C. Bryan	P. Miller	C. Bryan	None
Lifetime Achievement Award	C. Partin	R. Kahn, M. Bliss, B. Fye			No changes to committee
Nominating*	S. Moss	M. Bliss, C. Bryan	P. Miller	C. Bryan	None
Finance	M. Molina	D. Bindschadler, B. Cooper, M. Stone	M. Molina		No changes to committee
Membership†	P. Mueller	J. Richardson, A. Weisse	J. VanderVeer	P. Mueller	W. Evans
Publications	M. Jones	R. Golden, C. Lyons, W. Roberts, J VanderVeer			No changes to committee
Annual Meeting – Program Committee#	H. Swick	J. Duffin, L. Drevlow, C. Fulkerson, J. Howell, M. Moran P. Mueller, G. Davenport & R. Osborn (Osler Club of London)	P. Mueller	J. Duffin, L. Drevlow, C. Fulkerson, J. Howell, M. Moran P. Mueller, G. Davenport & R. Osborn (Osler Club of London)	J. VanderVeer M. Molina, S. Moss, R. Nesbit
Annual Meeting – Local Arrangements Committee	J. Ward	T. Ryan (Oxford), M. Gardner (Oxford), R. Ward, C. Boes (Executive Cmt liaison)	P. McHugh	T. Ryan (Oxford), M. Gardner (Oxford), J. Ward, R. Ward	S. Achuff, T. Raju, P. Reynolds, C. Boes (Executive Cmt liaison)

* Chaired by the most recent living Past President and include the 3 most recent living Past Presidents

† Chaired by the Second Vice-President

Chaired by the First Vice-President

The annual meeting will be held in Baltimore, Maryland, April 26-29, 2015. The 2016 meeting will be in Minneapolis, Minnesota, in conjunction with AAHM, for April 30 through May 3, 2016.

Pamela Miller expressed thanks to Sir Donald Irvine for an excellent McGovern lecture and to R. Dennis Bastron, Charles Bryan, J. Mario Molina, and Cynthia Pitcock for their time on the Board. In addition, she thanked the outgoing committee members for their service.

Pamela Miller presented Ernest Hook, Douglas Lanska, and Michael Malloy with their membership certificates. The new members who were not at the business meeting will receive their certificate by mail.

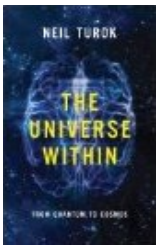
Pamela Miller passed the Oslerian key and the presidency to Herbert Swick, who duly chaired the remainder of the meeting.

Herbert Swick thanked Pamela for her significant contributions to the society and presidential services.

Herbert Swick adjourned the meeting at 8:55 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Christopher J. Boes
AOS Secretary

(Members please note: the Minutes of the Board of Governors meeting in Oxford have been e-mailed to you.)



BOOK REVIEW Turok, Neil, *The Universe Within: From Quantum to Cosmos*. Toronto: Anansi Press, 2012. Paperback, 294 pgs ~\$12.00 from Amazon. (Reviewed by the editor)

In this small volume – a transcription of his Massey Lectures broadcast in Canada in November 2012 – Turok recapitulates the history of how science has looked closely at both the universe within (the world of sub-atomic particles) and without (the cosmos) from the time of ancient Greece until today. He is director of the Perimeter Institute for Theoretical Physics in Ontario. He

is a physicist and an educator who writes lucidly to make many esoteric concepts understandable to the lay reader. Born in South Africa, he there founded the African Institute for Mathematical Sciences, a pan-African educational endeavor that over the past decade has graduated over 450 students from 31 African countries.

I found *The Universe Within* a fascinating read. Turok describes well how science has sought to understand how we (humanity) relate to the physical world. And he is optimistic about the future. But he hardly deals with the way that we (humanity) deal with one another, which I believe will determine what the future holds for us all.

That important side of our history and our humanity is referenced (but not developed) when he quotes Julian Huxley's introduction to Teilhard de Chardin's *The Phenomenon of Man*: "We, mankind, contain the possibilities of the earth's immense future, and can realize more and more of them on condition that we increase our knowledge and our love." [my italics]

It seems to me our technology has outpaced our humanity. If we cannot figure out a way to increase our love for one another, will not all our technology be in vain, given the course we are on?

In fairness, Turok is doing what he can, for he writes:

"At our institute [in addition to public outreach] we also engage in scientific in reach. The idea is to bring people from fields outside science, from history, art, music, or literature, into our scientific community. Science shares a purpose with these other disciplines: to explore and appreciate this universe we are privileged to inhabit. Every one of these human activities is inspiring, as they stretch our senses in different and complimentary ways. However much any of us has learned, there is so much more that we do not know. What we have in common, in our motives and loves and aspirations, is much more important than any of our differences. Looking back on the great eras of discovery and progress, we see that this commonality of purpose was critical, and it seems to me we have to recreate it." (pg 252)

I recommend this book. Since so many Oslerians are humanists, I'll be interested to hear reactions to it.

MYSTERY QUOTES OF THE ISSUE

Below are three quotes from or about a favorite of Osler.
Who is the person and to what are the quotes referring?

"My life is a miracle of thirty years"

"It is no slight compliment to the author that he should have been by one claimed as a Catholic, by another denounced as an Atheist, while a member of the Society of Friends saw in him a likely convert."

"There is surely a piece of divinity in us, something that was before the elements, and owes no homage unto the sun".

[The above submitted by Michael Malloy. The first to send the correct answers to him receives the prize. Please contact mmalloy@utmb.edu]

OSLERIANS IN THE NEWS: Jack Alperin (Galveston, TX) jalperin@utmb.edu

On August 14, Jack will be in Memphis, Tennessee to be honored by the Alumni Association of the School of Medicine at the University of Tennessee as a Distinguished Alumnus for 2014. He will be one of four alumni who will be named Distinguished Alumni for 2014. He graduated from the College of Medicine at UT Memphis in 1957. (Earlier in the month, on a visit to Philadelphia, he hopes to continue research on a paper for the AOS about Dr. Otto Bodo and his sons, who were all revolutionary war 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 2015 Annual Meeting in Baltimore, MD April 26-29, 2015

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

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

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

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

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

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

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