

## Edinburgh Congress update

**Wed 13<sup>th</sup> – Sat 16<sup>th</sup> September 2017**



With the 2017 Congress, some 9 months away, we hope that as many of you as possible will be preparing a paper (or papers) to present. Posters too are welcome.

### The 2017 Congress has 4 themes:

- Women in Medicine
  - Scotland's contribution and influence
  - Apothecaries and their successors
  - Art and photography in Medicine
- Papers on any history of medicine topic will also be welcome.

The call for abstracts will go out early in 2017 with a closing date of **31<sup>st</sup> May 2017**.

Registration rates will be lower for BSHM and members of BSHM affiliated Societies and there will be further 'early bird' reductions for those who **book before 14<sup>th</sup> July 2017**.

There are other advantages in booking early. Edinburgh remains a popular tourist and conference destination in September, so that last minute booking can limit choice of accommodation. The best deals for accommodation can usually be obtained by booking early. As in previous years we have left it to delegates to book their own accommodation separate from the Congress booking.

### Keep an eye on the website

<http://bshh.org.uk> for a map showing a selection of hotels of varying prices, all within 1 km of the venue.

**Please put these dates in your 2017 diaries**



**William Barnsley Allen  
Sheffield's Forgotten Hero  
VC, DSO, MC and Bar,  
MB.ChB.**

*On the 3rd September 2016,  
a plaque was laid in Sheffield by  
the Lord Mayor to commemorate  
the bravery of a young Sheffield  
doctor in the First World War.*

William Barnsley Allen qualified MB. ChB. with Honours at Sheffield University Medical School in 1914. Within a few months of the declaration of war he enlisted in the RAMC, serving in the 3rd West Riding Field Ambulance on the Western Front.

In August, 1916, he was awarded the Military Cross and a month later the Victoria Cross for conspicuous bravery caring for the wounded at Mesnil on the Somme. He was later awarded a Bar to the MC and the DSO, becoming one of the most decorated soldiers of the war. He subsequently developed encephalitis lethargica secondary to influenza in the pandemic of 1918, which led to his early death, aged 41 years.

A recent exhibition in Sheffield Medical School commemorating the role of Sheffield doctors in the First World War, brought back to light the heroism of William Barnsley Allen.

**Derek R. Cullen MD, FRCP  
Consultant Physician Emeritus**

For further information:

<https://www.sheffield.ac.uk/alumni/news/william-barnsley-allen-hall-of-fame-1.596384>



## Poynter Lecture 2016

### Finding Patients in the Medical Museum

Dr Sam Alberti

Keeper of Science & Technology

National Museums Scotland

Chambers Street, Edinburgh EH1 1JF

+44 (0)131 247 4456. [s.alberti@nms.ac.uk](mailto:s.alberti@nms.ac.uk)

<http://www.nms.ac.uk>

Medical museums have gone from strength to strength in recent years, celebrating the undeniable achievements of the heroes of modern medicine: Hunter, Jenner, Lister, Fleming. But it is also important to include patients in exhibitions about healthcare if we are to understand the experience and impact of medical technologies.

Some museums have artefacts in their permanent collections to illustrate the patient perspective: the historical patients' ward at the Berlin Museum of Medical History at the Charité Hospital is an excellent example of this, detailing the lives and treatments of individuals in each of the 'beds'. So too the prosthetics on display in the National Museum of Scotland have details of their use in the interpretation (or examples of people choosing not to use them).

Artists' interventions can also reinterpret collections in interesting ways, such as the 'Exceptional and Extraordinary' project which involved multiple medical museums, funded by the Wellcome and led by the University of Leicester School of Museum Studies.



Veterans who live with PTSD in the section of the *Wounded* exhibition they co-curated at the Science Museum, 2016. Image courtesy of Science Museum Group.

Curators of recent exhibitions commemorating the First World War – *War, Art and Surgery* at the Hunterian and *Wounded* at the Science Museum – brought a strong patient perspective to historical narratives and linked these to the experiences of contemporary service personnel.

Although these attempts are not always successful, this is an exciting time to be working in and visiting medical museums: many voices can be heard.



Dr Alberti receiving the Poynter Medal from Iain Macintyre (BSHM President)

### BSHM News

The Poynter lecture can now be viewed on YouTube: <http://bshm.org.uk/poynter-lecture-video/>

### BSHM book reviews

There are now six book reviews on our website and these can be accessed for perusal:

<http://bshm.org.uk/notice-board/book-reviews/>

### History of medicine blog

If you have a history of medicine item of interest to share on the blog, please email: [webmaster@bshm.org.uk](mailto:webmaster@bshm.org.uk)

### Notice board

For information about history of medicine events: <http://bshm.org.uk/notice-board/>

Individual membership of the BSHM now available: <http://bshm.org.uk/about-us/>



**Best Wishes for Christmas and the New Year from the BSHM**

