

Edinburgh Congress update

13th – 16th September 2017

Please make a note of the Congress dates.

Registration is open at:

<http://bshm.org.uk/congress/congress-registration/>



Venue: Surgeons' Hall

**Accommodation:
choice of local hotels**

**Book now to take
advantage of the early bird
rates.**

BSHM members and members of **BSHM affiliated societies** enjoy a further discount - if they book now the 3 day delegate rate for the Conference is only £180.

For information:

7th July Authors notified about paper and poster acceptance

14th July Early bird registration closes

15th July Standard registration opens

Keynote speakers include Philippa Langley, who led the successful search for the remains of Richard III, and the Guthrie lecture will be delivered by Professor David Watters from Melbourne. The Congress is being held in association with the Society for the Social History of Medicine whose sponsored keynote speaker is Professor Malcolm Nicolson.

The congress has approval for up to 20 hours of CPD.

Payment of Congress fees

Preferred option: Bank transfer

Alternative: use of PayPal (or cheque by arrangement)

The BSHM cannot accept direct credit card or cash payments.

The Rose Prize



**Fraser M Rose OBE
MB ChB (Edin) FCGP
(1897-1972)**

**Co-founder of the
Royal College of
General Practitioners**

The Rose Prize is awarded jointly by the Worshipful Society of Apothecaries of London and the Royal College of General Practitioners (RCGP) for original research into the History of General Practice.

I was delighted to be awarded it in 2015. I first heard of the prize at the Society of Apothecaries' Diploma Course on the History of Medicine. Although a GP and interested in the subject, I had never studied it in depth, let alone written a 5000 word essay. However, I approached the RCGP archivist, Sharon Messenger, who was immensely helpful. She guided me to the papers of Fraser Rose who had been little studied, despite being a College founder and a past president (and one of the two Roses commemorated in the Prize).

After many weeks of going through the papers, background reading, and some useful communication with Rose's descendants, my essay slowly came together. It was a thrill to attend the presentation at the magnificent Apothecaries Hall.

I have subsequently had a paper published in the Journal of Medical Biography.

It has been a thoroughly satisfying experience and I would recommend the Rose Prize to anyone interested in the History of General Practice.

Dr Christopher Timmis (Retired GP)



BSHM Membership Secretary: [Dr Martin Edwards](#)



I studied History of Medicine as a module during my medical student days at Cambridge but didn't become seriously interested until 1997 when, as a GP partner in South London, I took advantage of the (now endangered!) GP long study leave scheme to take a one-year sabbatical. This enabled me to

take the MSc course in History of Science and Medicine at Imperial College. Subsequently I affiliated to the (now defunct) London Wellcome Unit for the History of Medicine and studied part-time for my MD, examining the origins of the Randomised Controlled Trial in Britain. I then followed the well-trodden route of shamelessly rehashing my doctoral thesis as a book. I am currently a Research Associate in the Health Humanities department at UCL, working on the history of therapeutic bed rest. I am an examiner and lecturer on the Society of Apothecaries' diploma course in history of medicine, and am delighted to become the membership secretary for the BSHM.

I am now retired from clinical practice but still write a weekly medical column for a women's magazine. In my spare time I enjoy building automata. Doesn't everyone?

The National Childbirth Trust archive – catalogued and available for research at the Wellcome Library



The newly-catalogued National Childbirth Trust (NCT) archive, containing over 270 boxes of rich archive material, helps bring to life the history of childbirth and maternity care in the UK from the post-war period to the present day. The archive explores how women responded to their

experiences of childbirth through organisation and advocacy, highlighting the development of women's activism, the growth of the consumer voice, and the battle for choice and control in maternity care. The archive charts the story of this organisation – the Natural Childbirth Association (later National Childbirth Trust, NCT) – from its grassroots beginnings in the 1950s to the present day. Through letters, birth reports, and heated meeting papers, the archive lays

bare the challenges facing the organisation as they tried to rail against the 'doctor knows best' attitude of the 1950s.

Throughout its history, NCT has aimed to bridge the gap between lay person and medical establishment. Its successes, failures and compromises are all charted in this rich archive collection, which demonstrates how attitudes of doctors towards expectant mothers have changed, as well as how expectations of parents have shifted.

The archive can be searched on the Library catalogue using the reference [SA/NCT](#).

[Ross Macfarlane Research Engagement Officer Wellcome Library](#).

BSHM Book Reviews Update

The BSHM began publishing online reviews of books last September. Book Reviews Editor [Edward Wawrzynczak PhD DHMSA](#) provides a brief update.

"Our aim is to commission reviews of current titles to help inform the wider community interested in the history of medicine."

To date, more than twenty reviews of recently published books have been initiated.

"I am pleased we have attracted interest from a wide spectrum of publishers: from the big names, through university presses and specialists, to independent authors."

The subject matter has spanned ancient and recent history, ranged across continents and cultures, included broad overviews and focused biographies, and sampled popular accounts as well as scholarly works, representing the broad sweep encompassed by the history of medicine and reflecting the varied interests of our membership.

"I would especially like to thank our expert reviewers for their contribution to giving this initiative a flying start."

Edward invites members of the Society who are interested in joining the panel of reviewers to contact him at bookreviews@bshm.org.uk.

All the reviews published to date can be accessed at <http://bshm.org.uk/notice-board/book-reviews-alt/>.

BSHM news

Wikipedia Editathon 11th April 2017

For information on the recent BSHM and Wellcome Editathon see: <http://bshm.org.uk/notice-board/blog/>

RSM exhibition 8th May -29th July 2017

[The Mesmerist: John Elliotson \(1791-1868\)](#)