

## Letter from the President

**The 2021 Congress in Sheffield will take place on the 15<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> September.**

One of the themes of the Congress will reflect the industrial heritage of Sheffield. A venue will be chosen that will provide a cluster of modern lecture rooms allowing for ease of movement of delegates during parallel sessions.

Organisation of a modern conference such as the Congress is demanding and in this context the officers plan to engage a professional event management team in the preparation for Sheffield. We hope to continue to attract undergraduate students and academic historians to blend with historians from a clinical background.

Chris Derrett and I received a warm welcome at the recent Conference of the Australia and New Zealand Society of the History of Medicine in Auckland. A full report on the Conference appears in this Newsletter. Prior to the Conference I was invited to give the Christmas lecture at a meeting of the Auckland Medical History Society. These experiences reflect the close relationship that exists between the BSHM and fellow historians in the Antipodes. The current measles epidemic in Samoa received intensive media coverage whilst we were in NZ. Sadly, there have been 72 measles related deaths to date mostly in young children in a country with a population of only 200,000.



History repeats itself; one fifth of the population died during the 1918/1919 influenza epidemic. Members attention is drawn to registration details elsewhere in this Newsletter for the Symposium on the History of Teaching Anatomy in Edinburgh on the 26<sup>th</sup>/27<sup>th</sup> June 2020. We welcome two new affiliated societies, the Hunterian Society and the History of Psychiatry Special Interest Group.

I conclude with further good news. Flora Malein has agreed to take on the role as blog editor. I thank Lucy Havard on behalf of the BSHM for her output and diligence in the role.

It remains for me to wish all our members a happy and enjoyable festive season and good fortune in 2020.

**Mike Collins**



## Welcome to new Members and Affiliate Societies

### Flora Malein

Welcome to Flora Malein, the new BSHM Blog editor. Some of you may remember that Flora presented at the BSHM Congress at Edinburgh in 2017. She is also a recipient of the prestigious Norah Schuster prize of the History of Medicine Society at the Royal Society of Medicine.



### The Hunterian Society. ([click here](#))

*“I am delighted that the Hunterian Society is now affiliated with the BSHM. The Hunterian Society was named to honour John Hunter, who is often described as the ‘father of scientific surgery’. It was founded in 1819 by Dr William Cooke, a general practitioner and Mr Thomas Armiger, a surgeon. Since that time, members have met regularly throughout the year for dinner followed by a lecture and discussion.”*

**Susan Standring,  
President Hunterian Society.**

### History of Psychiatry Special Interest Group (HoPSIG)

HoPSIG “was created to encourage clinicians to research the history of psychiatry; to improve our understanding of the subject and its value, including relating to current policy and practice; and to provide a forum for discussion”

Professor George Ikkos  
Chair HoPSIG





# 3 - 7 DECEMBER 2019

The prospect of early summer sunshine in December and the opportunity of attending an history of medicine meeting in friendly surroundings proved irresistible. We were not to be disappointed.

We were made most welcome in New Zealand. The gathering was an opportunity to hear many excellent papers and make contacts with international colleagues. Lessons learned from the organisation of a meeting similar to the BSHM Congress will prove useful.

The meeting took place at the University of Auckland and was organised by Linda Bryder and Derek Dow and colleagues from the History Department.

The theme of the meeting was *"Beyond Borders: Health and Medicine in Historical Context"* with emphasis on the intersection between the local and international contexts in the history of medicine.

The cultural diversity of New Zealand enriched the event. A welcome reception took place at the Old Government House and the meeting opened with a Powhiri, a traditional Maori welcome. The Conference dinner was followed by a performance of Pacific Island dancing and singing.

There were 4 keynote lectures and over 80 delegate papers were presented. The UK was well represented; two of the four keynote lectures were given by UK speakers in addition to a number of papers. The duration of the meeting was longer (3 full days) than the BSHM Congress.

Oral presentations were allocated 20 minutes each with 10 minutes for questions and discussion. This arrangement meant that the conference was more relaxed and less rushed than recent BSHM Congresses, however, delegates had to choose from four parallel sessions.

The topics of influenza, vaccination, infectious and tropical diseases and women's health were well represented and biographical papers were popular. Other categories included museums, public health, research and medical ethics. We were interested to learn about the prominent influence of the BMA on Australian medicine.

Many papers were read by academic historians who are either preparing for or have completed PhDs. We sensed that there are closer links between the academic and clinical historians in Australia and New Zealand than in the UK to the mutual benefit of both. Nursing was well represented at the conference. Unlike the BSHM Congress, there were no presentations by undergraduates.

We would like to thank Linda and Derek and colleagues in the ANZSHM for a wonderful meeting.

**Mike Collins and Chris Derrett**

## Future Events

### [BSHM future events calendar](#)

Affiliated societies can advertise their meetings on our **future events page**. To post future events contact Bill Dibb at [affiliatesliaison@bshm.org.uk](mailto:affiliatesliaison@bshm.org.uk)

### **The Worshipful Society of Apothecaries of London Faculty of The History and Philosophy of Medicine and Pharmacy**



The John Locke Lecture: 28 January 2020 6:00 pm – 7:00 pm

### **[Why we need more Placebos in Clinical Practice and few in Clinical Trials](#)**

Congratulations to **Dr William Parker** who, on 24 February 2020, will give the

### **[Osler Lecture: Rediscovering a Local Surgical Pioneer: The Life and Work of Judson Chesterman](#)**



### **[Interest in Sir Winston Churchill:](#)**

### **History of Medicine Society at the Royal Society of Medicine 2020**

5 February 2020 6:00 pm – 7:30 pm

### **[Medicine and politics: Lessons from Churchill's illnesses](#)**

These events sell out rapidly. Book in advanced if meal required.

### **A special event:**

The Psychiatry Section at the RSM and the **History of Psychiatry Special Interest Group (HoPSIG)** have arranged a joint all-day meeting **14 January 2020** (8.45am – 5.10pm).

### **[Mind, state and society 1960-2010: Half a century of UK psychiatry and mental health services](#)**

# SSHM Symposium: Teaching Anatomy from classical to modern times 26-27 June 2020 (Edinburgh)



HEALTH & ECONOMICS

TEACHING ANATOMY FROM CLASSICAL TO MODERN TIMES

FRIDAY 26<sup>TH</sup> AND SATURDAY 27<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2020  
ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF EDINBURGH

Scottish Society of  
the History of  
Medicine (SSHM)

[SSHM official website](#)

[Click here for the booking form](#)  
[Details on the SSHM Symposium](#)

Members of the Scottish Society of the History of Medicine, the British Society for the History of Medicine, the Worshipful Society of Apothecaries and the History Society of the RSM will all qualify for the member rate fees indicated on the registration form.

**GALA DINNER:** A dinner has been arranged for the evening of Friday 26th June in the magnificent Halls of the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh. Dinner tickets can be purchased at the time of your conference registration.

**RECOMMENDED ACCOMMODATION - 10 HILL PLACE HOTEL:** The hotel is situated next to the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh. They are kindly offering reduced accommodation rates to delegates for the night of Friday 26th June at £155.00 per room, including breakfast (single occupancy)

**Reservations: call 0131 662 2080**

**Quote: Offer code 'BSHM250620'**

**Offer closes: Friday 15th May 2020.**

# The International Society for the History of Medicine (ISHM) 24th to 28th August 2020

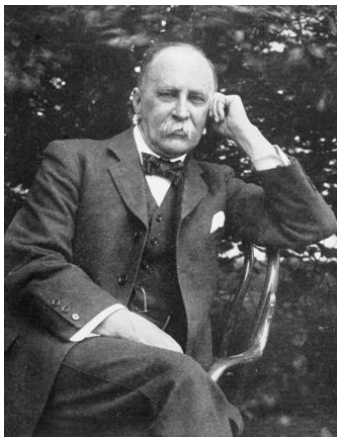


The ISHM meeting will be held in Riga in late August 2020. Latvia has long-standing traditions in researching the history of medicine and a substantial medical community dedicated to the history of the profession. Moreover, the Pauls Stradins Museum of the History of Medicine is one of the largest museums of its type in the world, offering a unique experience for medical students and the public at large.

Keynote speakers include Alexander Lukas Bieri, Jacalyn Duffin, Nils Hansson and Dan Healey. They have produced history of medicine publications of international standing and it is worth looking at their online presence to appreciate the breadth of their work.

Full details on website: [ISHM 2020 Event](#)

Abstract submission: opens on 1st January 2020.



## Sir William Osler Legacy meeting and Poynter Lecture on 1st October 2020 ([click here](#))

Dr John Ward is to give the Poynter Lecture at the Royal College of Physicians

**1 October 2020.**

**"The great Republic of Medicine knows and has known no national boundaries." - William Osler, the great medical internationalist**

## The BSHM website and Social Media Sites?

### [Link to BSHM official website](#)

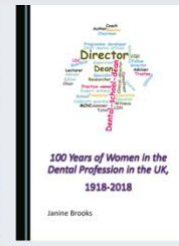
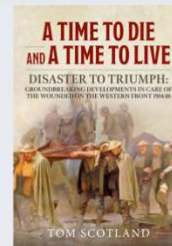
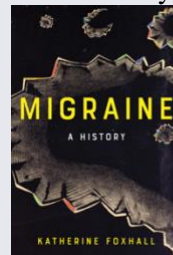
#### Social Media:

Recent blogs have included Andreas Vesalius (1514-1564) – the greatest anatomist that ever was? A blog can provide a snapshot of various interesting aspects of medical history - in just a few paragraphs!

### [Link to past newsletters](#)

### BSHM Book Reviews

The BSHM website includes regular reviews of recent history of medicine books.



([click here](#) for the most recent book review)

### Special Interest Database

The officers of the BSHM would like to develop a database of members' areas of expertise in medical history. This will enable the officers to respond to writers, journalists, programme makers and post graduate students seeking assistance in answering a specific question or help in interpreting defined areas within the history of medicine. The list would be kept by the BSHM and contact with the enquirer only undertaken once the BSHM member has had a chance to consider the enquiry and indicated they wish to be involved. The recent meeting of the Officers and Representative committee have supported this initiative. It might be that affiliate societies feel they can direct their members to being included or individuals may want to volunteer. Those wishing to be involved should contact the BSHM at [admin@bshm.org.uk](mailto:admin@bshm.org.uk) indicating contact details and specialist field.

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*Merry Christmas  
and a Happy New  
Year to Everyone  
from all at the  
BSHM*

*Honorary  
Secretary*

*Anjna Harrar*

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