



BSHM

Newsletter

Letter from the President

To all BSHM members and friends

Medical historians are probably more aware of pandemics and plagues than most. Little did we think that a pandemic such as COVID-19 would strike in our lifetime. Future generations will study the history of this period and wonder what it was like to live through. We regret that all history of medicine meetings are now suspended. Greater priorities now take central stage and our health and that of our families is paramount.

BSHM officers are in discussion with affiliated societies with whom joint meetings have been arranged.

These includes the BSHM Officers and Representatives meeting, the AGM, the Osler Legacy meeting and Poynter Lecture all planned to take place at the Royal College of Physicians London on the 1st October. We have agreed with the Osler Club to review the situation again on the 30th June. The meeting of the Scottish Society of the History of Medicine titled "The History of the Teaching of Anatomy from Classical to Modern Times" planned to take place in Edinburgh on the 26/27th June has been postponed and rescheduled to the 12/13th March 2021. Enquiries please to the organisers on 0114 2259143/9135.

This interregnum comes with personal opportunities such as catching up on our reading and writing and completing those projects that we might have been putting off. Please refer to page 11 for a helpful update on online library access. Why not submit a blog to blogeditor@bshh.org.uk. Another positive spin-off may be the greater familiarity with the tools needed for remote conferencing that will give us options for the future. In the meantime, keep watching the BSHM [website](#). More blogs and book reviews are in the pipeline. If you need more information then please contact the officers using the email addresses on the website. Finally, I would like to thank our colleagues and members who are working in frontline positions in the NHS and to say that we all appreciate your hard work and dedication at this very difficult time.



Mike Collins, President

Stay safe and keep well

Events in Reflection

Science Museum Medical Galleries 5 February 2020

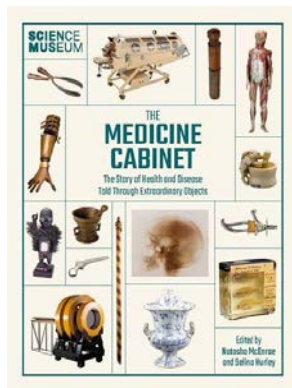


BSHM officers, members and friends visited the Science Museum, London on 5th February 2020 for a fascinating and insightful tour of the impressive new Medicine Galleries led by Keeper of Medicine, Natasha McEnroe.

You can see what the galleries look like by clicking [here](#).

The museum is unfortunately closed at present because of the coronavirus outbreak but excellent resources are still available [online](#).

For more information about some of the extraordinary objects in the museum's collection see our latest [book review](#) of The Medicine Cabinet.



(Above)
The Medicine Cabinet



The Osler Club of London

29 December 2019 marked the centenary of the death of Sir William Osler. The Osler Club of London marked the anniversary with a couple of special events, including a centenary event on Sunday 26th January 2020 at Christ Church, Oxford, where Osler's funeral took place on 1st January 1920.

Photo Above: Charley Bryan and his wife Donna unveiled a portrait of Sir William Osler.

Below: Graham Kyle, President of The Osler Club of London.



Messages From Affiliates

The Worshipful Society of Apothecaries

On 24 February 2020, Dr William Parker received the Maccabaeen Prize and Medal, the first time it has been awarded to the recipient of the Osler lecture.



Hunterian Prize

The Hunterian Society was named to honour John Hunter (1728-1793), a surgeon whose lifetime of teaching and innovative experimentation earned him the title of the father of 'scientific surgery'.

Prize entries open: 9am Mon March 16th

Prize entries close: 11pm Fri August 31st

Shortlisted candidates will be informed in October. Shortlisted candidates will present their essays at the Hunterian Society Scientific Meeting in November.

Just as a reminder, the Prize description (adapted from the laws of the Society) is as follows: The Hunterian Prize will be awarded to a student or practitioner of non-consultant grade in medicine, dentistry or veterinary science, or a medical scientist. It is awarded on the basis of an essay of 2000 words on a subject of relevance to John or William Hunter or medicine in the 18th Century to be submitted before the published deadline. Short-listed candidates will present their research to the November meeting of the Hunterian Society, and the winner will be determined by a panel of judges the same evening.

The Hunterian Prize is an award of £500 and free membership to the Society for a year.



Due to the Covid-19 virus pandemic the Hunterian Society has had to cancel the remaining scientific meetings of the 194th session. We apologise to everyone but hope that you socially isolate and keep well. We hope to restart in October with the 195th session.

- Professor Susan Standing

Norah Schuster Prize

Professor Stephen Challacombe, President of the History of Medicine Society at the Royal Society of Medicine congratulates the winners of the Norah Schuster Prize for Spring 2020.

The Winners who were due to present their essays are:

Hope Hughes. University of Birmingham, with the essay title - A History of the Bermuda Lunatic Asylum. "I have always had an interest in history, and was delighted to be able to intercalate in the History of Medicine last academic year. I thoroughly enjoyed the course, and took particular interest in healthcare and mental healthcare in the British colonies in the nineteenth century"

Barbara Mair. With the essay title "The Royal Navy, Cholera and Quarantine in the Nineteenth Century". Barbara is a former Royal Naval Dental Officer having trained at Bristol University and Britannia Royal Naval College. She was deployed on operations including Gritrock (Ebola outbreak) and Ruman (hurricanes Irma and Maria in the Caribbean) with 40 Commando Royal Marines. Now a third-year Graduate Medical student at Newcastle University she has a keen interest in Medical Humanities.

Janice Yiu. Now in my 4th year of Medicine at UCL, I have always been interested in the relationship between diseases and evolution of the human civilisation and understanding of this world. The vivid memories of living through the SARS epidemic in 2003 in Hong Kong when I was seven and the images of people wearing surgical masks in a home city famous for its skyline, 'East meets West' and openness to new ideas have never left me. The correct etiquette of sneezing in public was lectured over and over again throughout my childhood.

And now as a medical student, I started wondering when was the year or period that humans started to realise the implications of sneezing and its roles in spreading diseases. It was really a journey of 'East meets West' as I revisited the topic of sneezing in the medical literature of ancient China, Classical Greece and the Roman Empire and the records of epidemics and pandemics from then till the 20th Century. I am very grateful to the judging panel of the Royal Society of Medicine for giving me the Norah Schuster Prize, and this prize has even greater significance in the year of 2020 with the current global outbreak of the new 2019-nCoV coronavirus. As the economist Ha-Joon Chang put it, life is often stranger than fiction, and life is affected by history because it is mirror of spectator real-life cases. Importantly, it allows us to reflect on and question about what we think we know. Nevertheless, the subject of sneezing, an unpredictable physiological act, has encapsulated the triumphs and defects in a centuries-long war against epidemic/pandemics. As a part of the #MedicalHistorian community, I have great belief in the power of science and human empathy over the uncertainties and challenges ahead of us.



Norah Schuster
(Above)



Commendations

The entries for 2020 were numerous and outstanding. A further three were awarded certificates of commendations and included Teshka Chakowa, from the University of Manchester, who wrote 'If that is not proof enough': A study of patient casenotes from the Hotel-Dieu, Rouen, 1819-20.

"I am thrilled to have been highly commended for the Norah Schuster prize and hope that my work will be useful to medical historians in the future."

The British Society for the History of Paediatrics and Child Health

BSHPCH summary for British Society for the History of Medicine. The British Society for the History of Paediatrics & Child Health was founded in 2002 by Professor Peter Dunn as an evolution of the existing Royal College of Paediatrics & Child Health's History of Paediatrics & Child Health group. It is open to anyone with an interest in any aspect of child health and welfare from ancient times to the present. The Society customarily has two annual meetings, a Spring meeting as a session of the Royal College of Paediatrics & Child Health's annual conference and an Autumn meeting, including Dinner, over two half days, usually early September.

The 2020 Autumn Meeting will be held at the Royal College of Paediatrics & Child Health, London on the afternoon of Friday 11 and morning of Saturday 12 September.

The William Cadogan Prize of £300 is awarded annually by the Society for a prize essay on any aspect of the history of child health, conditional on the recipient giving a paper based on their essay at the subsequent Autumn Meeting.

The Society has a [website](#).

President; Professor Michael Dillon
Michael.Dillon@ucl.ac.uk

Hon. Secretary Mr. Nicholas Baldwin
Nick.Baldwin@gosh.nhs.uk



Emeritus Professor Peter M
Dunn - founder of the
BSHPCH

Future Events

Affiliated societies can advertise their meetings on our future events page. To post future events contact Bill Dibb at affiliatesliaison@bshm.org.uk



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: Open since 1st January 2020.



Sir William Osler Legacy meeting and Poynter Lecture on 1st October 2020

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

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

For an update, please see in letter from president on page 1.

BSHM Congress 2021

15 – 18 September 2021

Healthcare and Medicine

The 2021 Congress will take place in Sheffield, renowned for over 600 years for its silverware and cutlery industry and for steel-making that featured at the heart of the city's heavy industry particularly during the industrial revolution and into the 19th and 20th century.

This prestigious biennial event will provide a forum to explore the history of healthcare in industry and the related social and cultural impact on people's lives.

Other key themes of the Congress will include the contribution of medical engineering, pandemics and historical perspectives in nursing.

We very much look forward to welcoming you to Sheffield and to the Congress in 2021.

Congress will take place in Sheffield.

Abstract submissions on these and general topics will be welcomed. Submission dates to be announced.



“Understanding Death and Mortality in the Context of Mental Illness and Institutionalisation During the 19th and 20th Centuries”



**Thurs. 17 Sept. - Fri. 18 Sept. 2020,
Newcastle University**



A two-day Workshop funded by the School of History, Classics and Archaeology, Newcastle University and by the Royal College of Psychiatrists' History of Psychiatry Special Interest Group.

The workshop seeks to foster dialogue about a wide range of urgent themes in the historiography of institutional dying, mortality and mental illness, including the epidemiology of mortality, especially amongst the insane in institutions; changing understandings of causes of death; the evolving role and bench praxis of post-mortem dissection and pathological sciences, and the spatial design of asylum dead houses/ mortuaries; the circumscribed epistemological and therapeutic contributions of post-mortem and pathological (mental) medicine; the impact of institutional environments, and psychiatric/penal care and treatment on inmates' health and mortality; chronicity and waiting for death in the asylum/mental hospital/prison; social, political, ethical and moral implications of the institutional death of the mentally ill; the mediation of death by a range of institutional staff, and inmates' own experience/testimonies regarding dying (insane). The plenary speaker is Professor Hilary Marland (Warwick), who will be talking about her major research project (in collaboration with or Dr Catherine Cox, University College Dublin), exploring health in prison, funded by a Wellcome Trust Principal Investigator Award (2014-19), which has focused inter alia on the impact of prisons on mental wellbeing.

Other confirmed speakers/chairs include: Dr Jonathan Andrews, Nicol Ferrier, Dr Robert Dale and Dr Vicky Long (Newcastle); Dr Louise Hide (Birkbeck); Prof. Chris Philo (Glasgow); Dr Andy Owen, Consultant Psychiatrist (Coventry and Warwickshire Partnership Trust), and Dr Jennifer Wallis (Imperial).

REGISTRATION

Registration and attendance are free for Newcastle University staff, and for all students. There is a registration fee of £60 for others wishing to attend, to cover lunch, refreshments and workshop programme packs.

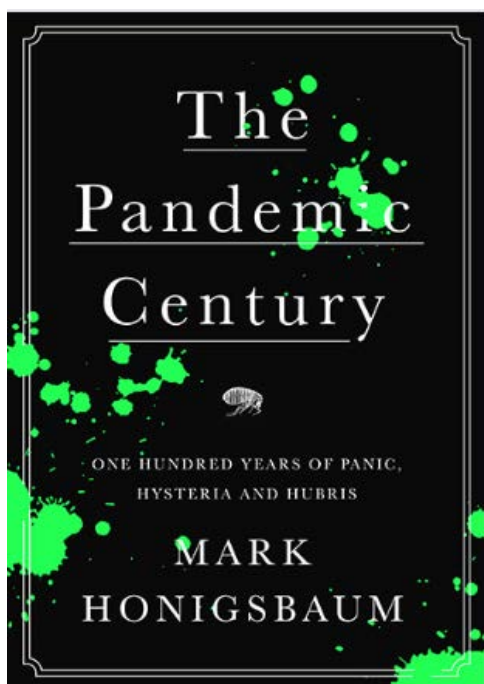
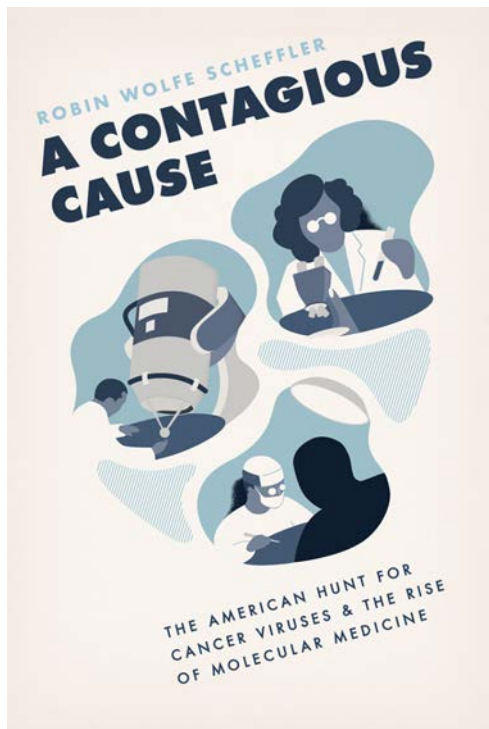
Registration is limited to 50 participants max. on a first come first served basis. To register and for further information, please email the workshop organisers:

Dr Jonathan Andrews (Reader in the History of Psychiatry, Newcastle University) jonathan.andrews@ncl.ac.uk and;

Prof. Nicol Ferrier (Emeritus Professor, Wolfson Research Centre, Institute of Neuroscience, and PhD candidate, Newcastle University) i.n.ferrier@newcastle.ac.uk.

Book Reviews

The [BSHM website](#) includes regular reviews of recent history of medicine books. See other book reviews [here](#).



Recent Posts

- Herd Immunity – what's in a name?
- Can history help us in the COVID-19 epidemic?
- Laughter is the best medicine
- Tuberculosis, Philately and the history of the 'Christmas seal'
- Andreas Vesalius (1514-1564) – the greatest anatomist that ever was?
- The Humble Toothbrush

Welcome to the BSHM Website
A resource for everyone interested in
the History of Medicine

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 indicating contact details and specialist field.

Registration with the Wellcome Library COVID-19 Crisis

Lee Coppack has kindly obtained the following information below for researchers and students.

During these unprecedented times, we would like to help researchers by giving them access to as many remote services as possible. Therefore, we have decided to let anyone who registers online access to databases that would normally only be available to full members.

You can view a list of databases to see what can be viewed by members from outside the Wellcome Library [here](#):

Your students would need to complete the pre-registration form and send a scan or photograph of a Photo ID and a proof of address (utilities bill, bank statement, drivers' licence) to library@wellcome.ac.uk, so that we can process the application.

The pre-registration form can be filled at the address [here](#) below.

They will be given full membership for three months (this may be extended if Wellcome Collection and the library are closed for a further length of time).

They will then have access to databases that are available anywhere with a Library card. This wouldn't give access to databases that are accessible "from Library PC only".

Lee also states that it is possible to use JStor free for many things and/or on a monthly basis only for those of us who don't have institutional affiliations.

I'm delighted to find this now includes 26 journals in public health until the end of June. There is now a lot of other free material on JStor including on [epidemics](#).

Another useful free source is the [US National Library of Medicine](#).

Stay Safe.

Mike Collins
President

Mike Davidson
Vice President

Edward Wawrzynczak
Hon. Treasurer

Anjna Harrar
Hon. Secretary